October 2009

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Final Report

Prepared for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council by Land Use Consultants

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN - FINAL REPORT

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by
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October 2009

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Acknowledgements

The Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan was prepared on behalf of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council by Land Use Consultants (LUC). The project was steered by a project group of officers from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – Kelly Ford, Stephanie Chettle, Darren Henry, Paul Daly and Matt Crossley. LUC's team consisted of Philip Smith, Andrew Tempany, Louise Tricklebank, Alex Massey, Richard Gowing, Graham Savage and John Jeffcock.

Consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders, whose contribution is gratefully acknowledged. However, the views in this report are those of Land Use Consultants.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Land Use Consultants was appointed by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in April 2009 to prepare a Green Infrastructure Plan for the Borough. Covering around 79.3 km^2, the Borough is predominantly urban, with the two market towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth making up the majority of the area. The large village of Bulkington is situated in the Green Belt to the east of Bedworth. The Green Infrastructure Plan seeks to enhance existing green infrastructure and connections and provide a holistic consideration of green infrastructure deficiency. It will set out a number of projects for new green infrastructure alongside the housing and economic development proposed in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. It sets out a 'greenprint' for new and enhanced existing green infrastructure (protection and enhancement of existing green infrastructure and the provision of new Green Infrastructure in advance of, and alongside, future development).

1.2. The functional opportunity analysis in relation to green infrastructure has been undertaken with reference to the seven 'Locality Areas' defined by the Borough Council as part of the wider approach to spatial planning within the Local Development Framework. These locality areas are shown on **Figure 1.1**.

1.3. This report establishes the policy context for green infrastructure and the baseline in terms of environmental and socio economic character. It also provides a GI deficiency analysis and strategic recommendations for the outline GI network, in addition to a framework for delivery and monitoring.

1.4. The Green Infrastructure Plan is set out as follows:

- Strategic context;
- Interpretation of green infrastructure standards;
- Key issues for the Green Infrastructure Plan;
- Proposed green infrastructure network;
- Delivery and monitoring recommendations.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – A DEFINITION

1.5. Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12): Local Spatial Planning defines green infrastructure as follows:

> *'Green Infrastructure is a network of multi functional greenspace, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities'*[1].

1.6. It is important to note that green infrastructure considers both public and private assets. Green infrastructure can be considered in a spatial dimension, in the context of links/corridors at a conceptual/thematic level e.g. sustainable living, as individual

[1] http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps12lsp

elements within sites such as trees and their contribution to shading and cooling, and as part of wildlife corridors. The multi functional character of Green Infrastructure (GI) means that it also considers cultural as well as landscape and ecological assets/habitats, along with concepts such as sustainable water and resource management and use of river corridors and floodplains for amenity greenspace, and biodiversity, in addition to positive benefits to human health and mental well-being.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

1.7. Government policy is increasingly recognising the need to plan for and provide green infrastructure. For example, the **Sustainable Communities Plan** in relation to the Growth Areas includes the following commitments:

- "We will promote more and better publicly accessible green space in and around our communities, for example through the creation of new country parks and networks of green spaces within towns and cities";
- "We will encourage regional and local partners… to replicate the success of the 12 Community Forests around our major towns and cities";
- "We will enhance green belt land by encouraging local authorities to identify ways to raise its quality and utility, for example by improving its accessibility, biodiversity and amenity value".

1.8. Natural England's Strategic Direction document and Green Infrastructure Guidance recognise that the natural environment is under pressure from development across the country, and that whilst new developments usually make some provision for green space, it is often of limited natural value.

1.9. **PPS 12: Local Spatial Planning** states that the local planning authority '*core strategy should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development proposed for the area, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided. The core strategy should draw on and in parallel influence any strategies and investment plans of the local authority and other organisations*.'

1.10. **PPS 3: Housing** requires that borough housing plans should have regard to any local greening or design plans such as green infrastructure strategies. The document also sets out some clear principles to guide the consideration of the local environment in the design of new housing schemes. These principles include ensuring that the dominant landscape or ecological features of the area are retained in new development, as is any significant biodiversity value. The policy statement also reinforces the requirements of PPG 17 in terms of ensuring that existing and new residents are given adequate access to open space. PPS 3 also requires that good practice in sustainable and environmentally friendly design is applied in all new development.

Need for Green Infrastructure - Pressure for Increased Growth

1.11. The **West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)** provides a long term land use and transport planning framework for the Region. It determines (amongst other things) the scale and distribution of housing and economic development across the

Region, investment priorities for transport and sets out policies for enhancing the environment. In turn, this framework guides the preparation of local authority development plans and local transport plans.

1.12. Policy CF3 *Level and Distribution of New Housing* of the West Midlands RSS proposes significant housing growth in Nuneaton and Bedworth during 2006-2026 with 10,800 proposed new houses.

1.13. Policy PA6A *Employment Land Provision* of the West Midlands RSS identifies district level requirements for employment land provision, which reflect the need to balance new housing and population change with new employment. The indicative long-term requirement for Nuneaton and Bedworth is 96 ha.

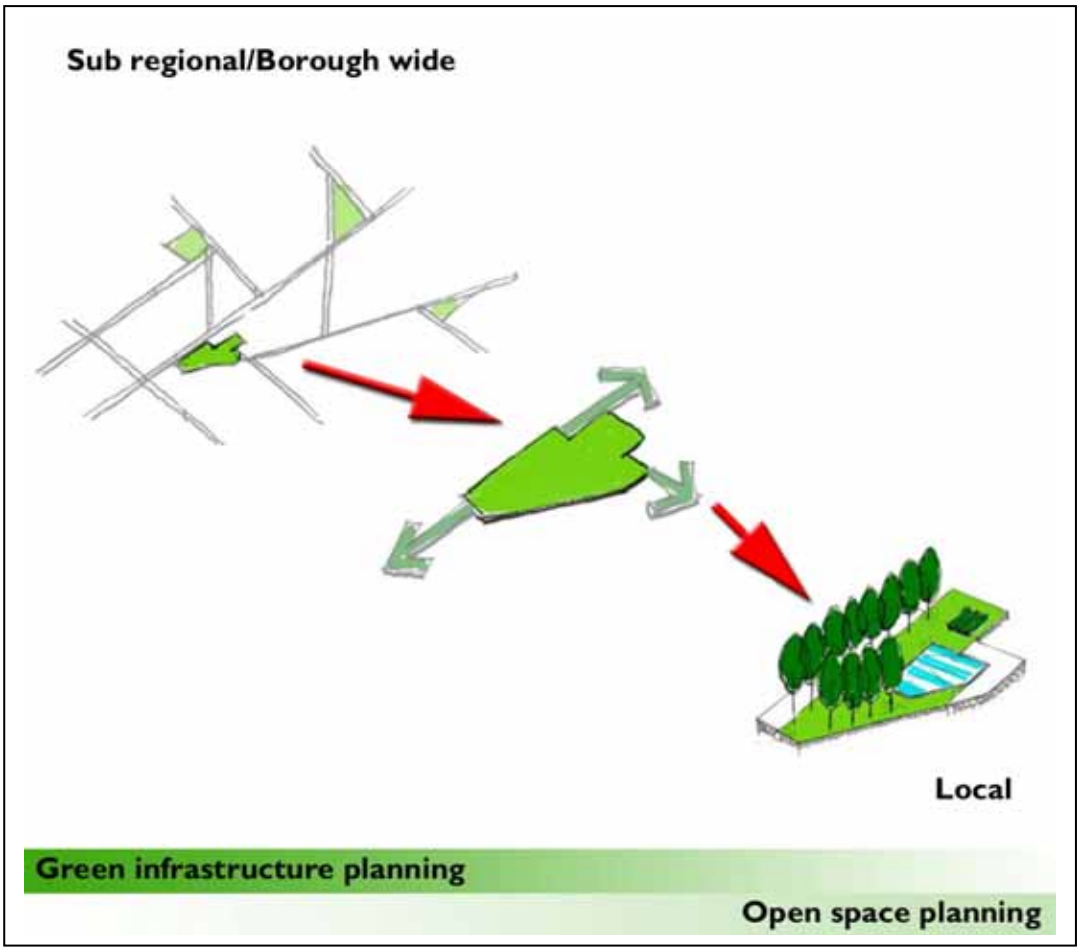
1.14. The **Phase Three Revision to the West Midlands RSS** is currently underway and will involve further development of existing environmental policies in the RSS. Green infrastructure is currently covered by Policy QE4 *Greenery, Urban Greenspace and Public Spaces*, which sets out the broad principles for ensuring the adequate provision of green space. However, draft options for the Phase Three Revision will propose this policy is re-titled as green infrastructure and will set out a number of issues that the revised policy is likely to cover, including:

- Advocating an integrated multi-functional approach to delivering green infrastructure;
- Use of West Midlands Green Infrastructure Prospectus definition;
- Greater emphasis on sustainability benefits of green infrastructure;
- Green infrastructure's contribution to biodiversity and renewable energy enhancement;
- Greater emphasis on delivering increased recreational resources (i.e. through PPG17 studies);
- Requirement for local authorities to produce green infrastructure studies;
- Identify priorities for green infrastructure provision.

1.15. **Shaping our Future – the Sustainable Community Plan 2007 – 2021 for Nuneaton and Bedworth**. The purpose of the sustainable community plan is to set the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Nuneaton and Bedworth in a way that contributes to sustainable development. There are already several parts of the current Sustainable Communities Plan which support a green infrastructure approach including: Part of the aim of the health theme is to promote a more healthy and active life-styles. One of the actions is "To tackle obesity by improving access to physical and sporting activity." Under the Sustainability theme there are further actions that include "Protect and promote public open spaces and natural habitats in the Borough" and "Tackle environmental crime such as pollution, flytipping and litter" and to "work in partnership to tackle climate change" and "Encourage people to walk and cycle where possible." This would include developing further cycling routes in the Borough.

Links to relevant work within the Borough

1.16. **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Parks and Open Space Strategy**. A draft open space strategy has recently been produced. This addresses in detail the degree of access to and quality of formal and informal public parks and open spaces, and also examines linkages available to the public between such sites. It is distinct from this Green Infrastructure Plan, which deals with Borough wide ecological, landscape, cultural and informal recreational assets and the linkages, networks and connectivity of those assets both in public and private ownership. As such, whilst the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy focuses primarily on Borough Council owned land and publicly accessible features, the Green Infrastructure Plan provides an holistic overview, also considering 'sub regional' scale links with other local authorities, with the 'Green Network' proposed by the Parks and Open Space Strategy effectively a 'subset' of the wider green infrastructure network. The 'local to sub regional aspect of green infrastructure planning, that is different 'tiers' or spatial scales, is summarised in the sketch diagram below.



1.17. Green infrastructure planning and policy will significantly help deliver the creation and implementation of the publicly accessible Green Network - for example in future by helping fill in gaps in the network in areas where privately owned land is developed and by generating community infrastructure / planning contributions that may be more generally invested in signage of the network and other forms of improvement of the existing Green Network.

1.18. It is important to recognise that whilst open spaces within an Open Space Strategy form an important part of a green infrastructure network, green infrastructure goes significantly beyond this, as Open Space Strategies consider open spaces primarily from accessibility, quantity, quality and management perspectives. In contrast, green infrastructure[2]:

- Goes beyond the site specific, considering also the 'big picture' – landscape context, hinterland and setting, as well as strategic links of sub regional scale and beyond;
- Considers private as well as public assets;
- Provides a multifunctional, connected network delivering ecosystem services.

1.19. **Figure 1.2** shows how key components of the green infrastructure (public and private) network relate to the local 'green network'. **Figure 1.3** shows how the green infrastructure aspects of this which relevant to the Borough can be organised as a GI 'typology' similar to that shown by Natural England in their Green Infrastructure Guidance[3]. This diagram also shows that GI also deals with non spatial elements, that is individual components within spaces, such as street trees, green roofs or swales.

APPROACH

1.20. **Appendix 1** gives a full overview of the approach taken in developing this Green Infrastructure Plan. Briefly the approach included the following stages:

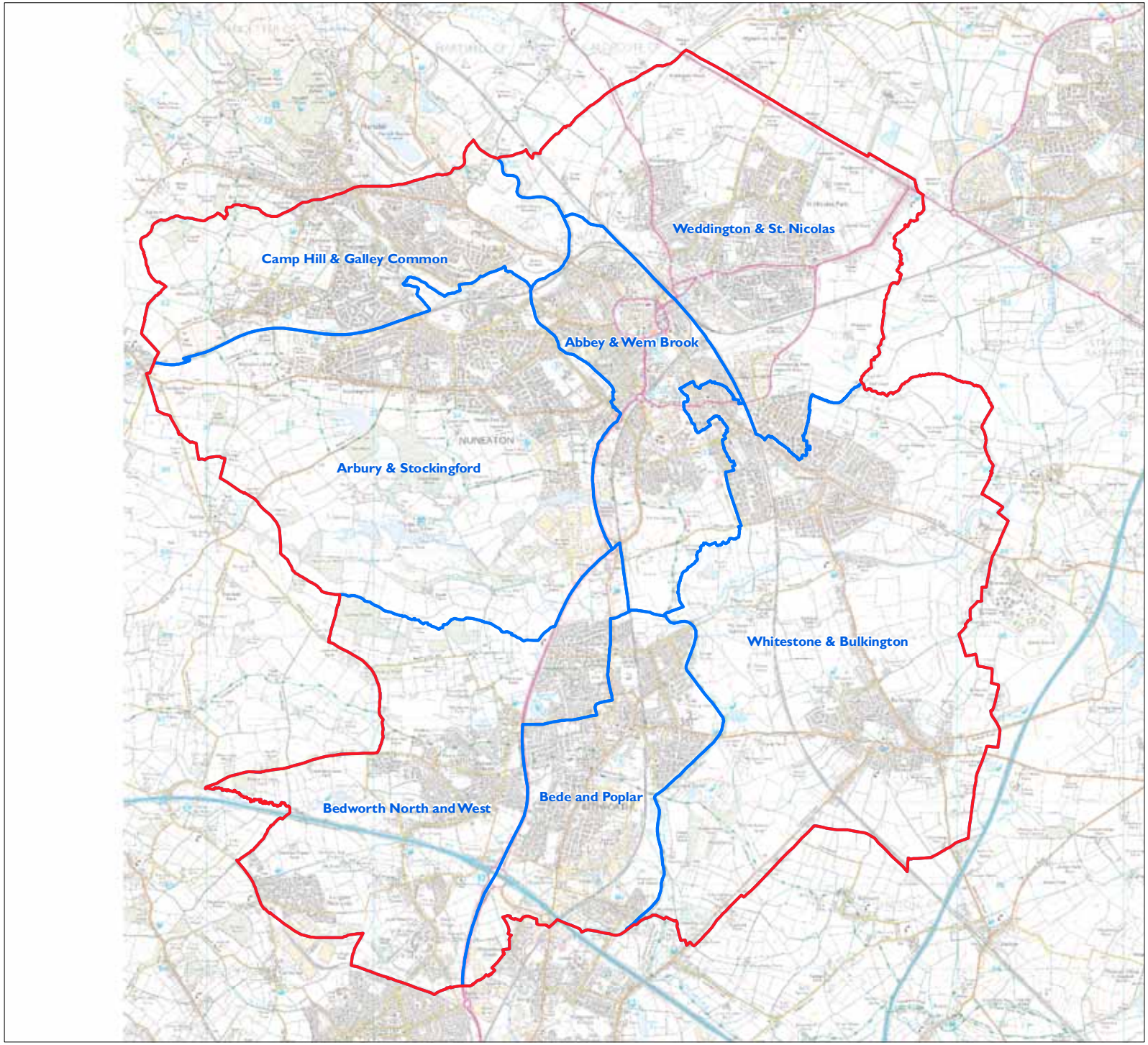
- Plan, policy and green infrastructure initiatives review for the Borough;
- Map based characterisation and identification of existing green infrastructure assets, validated through stakeholder consultation. These assets were place and character (landscape) and cultural heritage, biodiversity, and open space, recreation and access links;
- Stakeholder consultation to validate the baseline information (records of stakeholder consultation are at **Appendix 5**);
- Need and demand analysis considering the findings of the characterisation, application of relevant national and local standards, and 'spatial targeting' of green infrastructure, considering floodrisk and social deprivation issues;
- Development of a proposed green infrastructure network;
- Refinement of the proposed green infrastructure network through stakeholder consultation (initial network and stakeholder responses are shown at **Appendix 5**);

[2] Natural England and LUC 2009 **Green Infrastructure Guidance**
[3] Natural England and LUC 2009 Op Cit

- Delivery and monitoring framework (developed through stakeholder consultation).

Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 1.1: Locality Areas



Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Locality Areas

N
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0 0.5 1 2 Km

Source: NBBC

Date: 08/10/2009
Revision:

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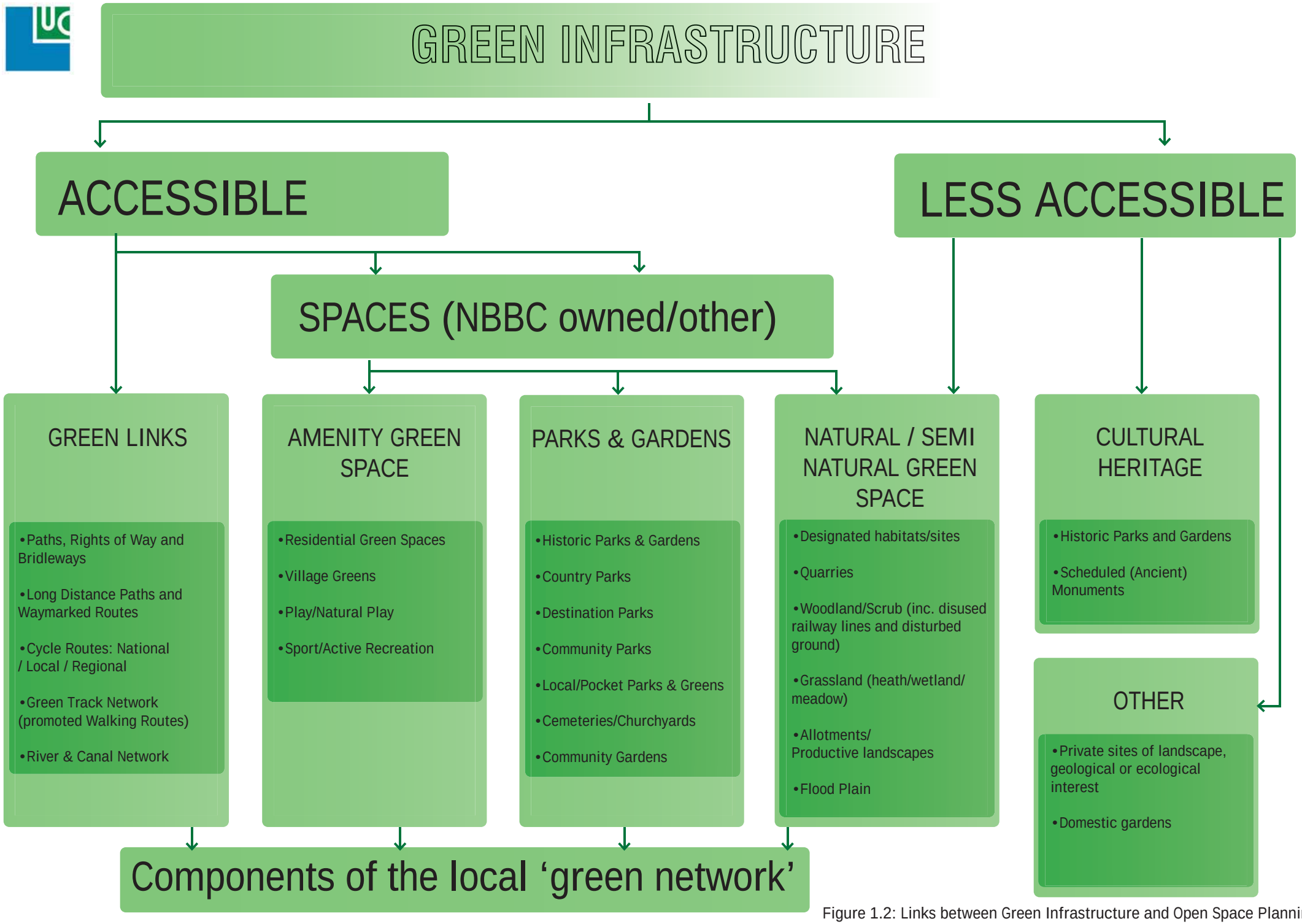


Figure 1.2: Links between Green Infrastructure and Open Space Planning

Nuneaton & Bedworth GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE Plan:

SPACES

PARKS & GARDENS (inc. NBBC owned public & private)


Arbury


George Eliot Memorial Gardens

Judkins Discovery Park

Arbury Gateway Park

AMENITY GREEN SPACE

Landscape Restoration Zone


Natural Play


Active Recreation


Active Recreation

NATURAL / SEMI NATURAL GREEN SPACE


Quarries (scrubbed up/habitat)


Urban Waterway Zones

Flood Attenuation


Allotments

GREEN CORRIDORS & LINKS


Public Footpaths

Connections


Shared Use


Cycleway / Sustrans

ELEMENTS


Urban Greening (street trees)


Green / Brown Roofs


Reedbeds


Attenuation Ponds

Figure 1.3: GI typology

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

OTHER GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STUDIES

2.1. **West Midlands Regional Green Infrastructure Prospectus** sets out a long term vision for green infrastructure in the region, proposes how green infrastructure could fit into the existing spatial planning system and sets out a number of current best practice case studies.

2.2. **Coventry Green Infrastructure Study (2008)**: produced in response to its growth point status and to provide an evidence base for its LDF process. The vision identifies a major area of opportunity for green infrastructure in the corridor going north from Coventry through Bedworth and Nuneaton (along the Coventry Canal). Key corridors from this and other adjacent GI Strategies are shown on **Figure 2.1**.

2.3. **Rugby Borough Green Infrastructure Study (2009)**: This was produced as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. The Vision and Strategy within the document set the framework for a series of strategic and local green infrastructure links. In terms of connections with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, these include the Ashby de la Zouche Canal, the Oxford Canal (feeding into the Coventry Canal), and, at a more local level, tributaries of the River Anker.

2.4. **Hinckley and Bosworth Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy (2008)**: produced as part of the evidence base for the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Local Development Framework and to inform future Area Action Plans. The strategy identifies strategic corridors along the tributaries feeding the River Anker and the Ashby de la Zouche Canal, which connect with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.

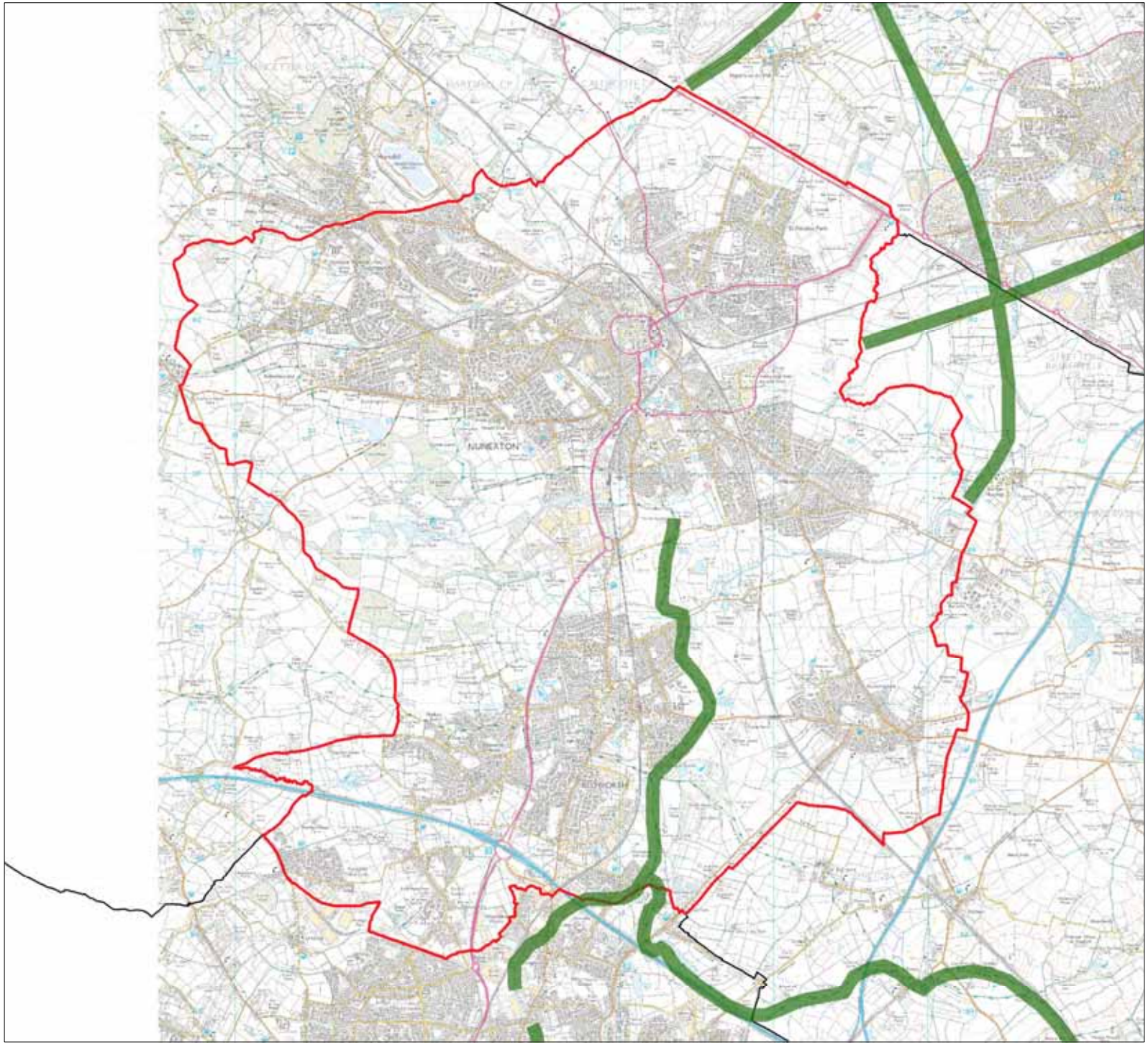
2.5. Work has recently started on the **6C's Green Infrastructure Strategy (ongoing)** which covers Leicester, Nottingham and Derby. Information from the stakeholder workshops has been reviewed and it is clear that the importance of canal corridors and disused railway corridors and the potential they offer has been recognised. The areas surrounding Hinkley, which borders Nuneaton, have been identified as areas with the potential for strategic urban fringe landscape enhancement which may have benefits for the north east of Nuneaton and provide opportunities for complementary activities.

2.6. In addition a Green Infrastructure Strategy is in production for Birmingham and Solihull (within the Birmingham, Coventry and Black Country City Region), although this was unavailable at the time of writing.

2.7. **Joint Green Belt study (Coventry City, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, Rugby Borough and Warwick District) (January 2009)**. The purpose of this study was to review the Green Belt land that surrounds the main urban areas of Coventry City, Nuneaton and Bedworth Boroughs, land adjacent to Coventry within Rugby Borough and Warwick towns of Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington Spa. The study consists of a two stage process. The first identifies those parcels of land within the designated Green Belt around the urban areas that contribute least towards the purposes of including land within the Green Belt. The second stage

then assesses and scores those parcels of land against a range of environmental and physical constraints that might preclude future development.

2.8. According to the study the least constrained parcels of Green Belt in Nuneaton and Bedworth lie to the east of Nuneaton around Wheatcroft and Hill Farms east of the Hemdale and Trident Business Parks industrial estate; to the west of Nuneaton around Nuthurst Health and Lodge Farm to the South West of Stockingford; and also to the east of Bedworth around the Coventry Canal and north of Hawkesbury; the final parcel lies to the south of the M6 on the eastern side of Bedworth around Kerseley Newlands and Neal's Green.



Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 2.1: Green Infrastructure Context

Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Green infrastructure corridors

N
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0 0.5 1 2 Km

Source: CCC, HBBC

Date: 08/10/2009
Revision:

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Existing green infrastructure projects in the Borough

2.9. The table below sets out a summary of relevant green infrastructure initiatives operating within and near the Borough, and which have informed the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan.

Table 2.1: Relevant GI Initiatives in and around the Borough

Project	Description
The Ridge Project	A formative project to understand and interpret the unique geology, landscape and cultural significance of the Hartshill Ridge north west of Nuneaton town, as a focus for creative new access and recreational opportunities, which make the most of the area's post industrial heritage.
The North Arden Heritage Trail	A project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which is working with local communities to establish a 25-mile circular walk taking in 12 parishes in North Warwickshire[4].
Coventry Way	The Coventry Way is a 64km footpath forming a circular route around the city of Coventry covering countryside in both the West Midlands and Warwickshire. The path is managed by A Coventry Way Association[5].
Centenary Way	This is a trail which includes low-lying countryside, numerous country parks, canals, the Burton Dassett Hills and Edge Hill, and the towns of Kenilworth, Warwick, Leamington Spa and Shipston on Stour, connecting at both ends with the Heart of England Way[6].
Quarryman's Walk	The Quarryman's Walk runs along a two and a half mile stretch of the Coventry Canal at Hartshill, just north of Nuneaton. Groundwork Coventry & Warwickshire in partnership with British Waterways have begun to develop themed interpretation along the Quarryman's Walk[7].
National Forest	The National Forest is one of the country's most significant environmental projects, winning the inaugural Sustainable Development UK award in 2008. It is transforming 200 square miles in the centre of England by enriching the diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats whilst being sustainable – environmentally, economically and socially[8].
Forest of Mercia Community Forest	The Forest of Mercia is part of a national programme of ten Community Forests in England which enable people in large urban areas to have access to a high quality natural

[4] http://www.nwkspaths.org.uk/pdf/NorthArdenProjectLeaflet.pdf
[5] http://www.acoventryway.org.uk
[6] http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/paths/name/c/centenarywarwickshire.htm
[7] http://www.quarrymanswalk.co.uk
[8] http://www.nationalforest.org

Project	Description
	environment. The Forest of Mercia covers 92 square miles of South Staffordshire and adjoining parts of the West Midlands, and provides considerable scope for walks, recreation and education[9].
Local BAP mapping and Ecological Opportunity Mapping	A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is an internationally recognised program addressing threatened species and habitats and is designed to protect and restore biological systems. The Warwickshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan covers the Borough[10].
Other relevant initiatives linked to national/regional programmes	
Streets for All	Streets for All, sets out principles of good practice for street management, such as reducing clutter, coordinating design and reinforcing local character within the West Midlands[11].
Sustainable School Travel Strategy - Warwickshire	The objectives of the strategy include: Identifying areas for improvement to travel options available to children and young people; To reduce the number of cars used for travel to education purposes; and To publicise the benefits of alternative means of travel.
Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)	Establishes a framework for rights of way and countryside access. It aims to develop a network of paths to connect parks, greenways and canals and meet the needs of both residents and visitors for recreation and utility.
Bike It	Bike It works directly with schools, encouraging school children to cycle to school every day. Organisations such as the Big Lottery Fund, Transport for London, Cycling England, Welsh Assembly Government, and the NHS Primary Care Trusts are involved with funding the scheme[12].
Higher Level Stewardship Schemes	HLS aims to deliver significant environmental benefits in high priority situations and areas. The Meriden Gap, Tame and Upper Trent River Valleys Target Area, is located within the Borough (encompassing part of the Forest of Arden).
Active Woods	Active Woods is a national drive by the Forestry Commission to promote the vast range of health and fitness opportunities

[9] http://www.forestofmercia.org.uk
[10] http://www.ukbap.org.uk
[11] http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.00100200500d002
[12] http://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/bike-it

Project	Description
	offered by woodlands. It includes organised events such as den-building competitions and dog walks, which reflect the campaign's three themes - naturally active, naturally stimulating and naturally relaxing.
Nuneaton and Bedworth Walking for Health - West Midlands	Supported by Natural England, this scheme encourages people to enjoy local natural spaces whilst improving their health. It currently provides local people in Nuneaton and Bedworth with an opportunity to join four different walking groups led by trained volunteer walk leaders for free[13].

LEGISLATIVE, PLANNING AND POLICY CONTEXT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

2.10. A desk-based review of current national, regional and local planning policy was undertaken in order to understand the context for this study. This policy review can be found in **Appendix 2**.

APPLICATION OF NATIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS TO NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH

Current provision

2.11. In order to understand how well Nuneaton and Bedworth is provided for in terms of accessible green infrastructure for informal recreation and access, an analysis of current provision was undertaken using Natural England's ANGSt standard as a benchmark.

2.12. The quality of accessible green infrastructure is also very important for ensuring local communities feel they are adequately provided for. It should be noted that it was not within the scope of this study to undertake a detailed audit of the quality of open spaces; this being the role of the PPG17 Open Spaces Assessments. An Open Space Assessment (2007)[14] has been undertaken for the Borough, which set out recommended provision standards in quality and accessibility terms, and these are summarised in the next chapter. A draft Open Space Strategy has recently been prepared, building on the existing assessment and considering open space in a holistic manner more specific to the types and character of open space within the Borough, and to inform future open space planning policy.

[13] http://www.whi.org.uk/walkfinder/region/West+Midlands/Nuneaton+and+Bedworth+Walking+for+Health/992.html

[14] Jones Plus Ltd, 2007 **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council: Open Space Assessment**

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt)

2.13. Natural England's ANGSt Model[15] is based on distance thresholds, and defines the maximum distance that any resident should have to travel from their home to reach accessible natural or semi-natural greenspace. The four Tiers which have been defined are as follows:

Table 2.2: Green infrastructure distance thresholds

Sub-regional provision	Sites or habitats over 500ha	Within 10 km
County scale provision	Sites or habitats over 100ha	Within 5 km
District scale provision	Sites or habitats over 20ha	Within 2 km
Neighbourhood scale sites	Sites or habitats over 2ha	Within 300 m

2.14. Application of these thresholds to Nuneaton and Bedworth allows an understanding of the extent to which the population is currently served by green infrastructure of a range of scales.

2.15. As described in the preceding sections of this report, a range of data on green infrastructure spaces and links has been collated. For the purposes of this analysis the following data for spaces over 0.5ha is included:

- Publicly accessible natural and semi-natural green space;
- Parks and gardens (where these are accessible without entry fee);
- Amenity green space;
- Cemeteries and churchyards.

2.16. Spaces which are not readily accessible have been excluded from the analysis (including allotments, outdoor sports facilities recreation spaces and spaces for children and young people where payment or membership is required, and any other types of green infrastructure which are not publicly accessible, including areas of woodland and private sites designated for their nature conservation value, or which require prior arrangement and/or payment).

2.17. Use of information as to accessibility of sites provided within the PPG17 Audit, has shown that there is 1126.57ha of Green Infrastructure in the Borough, 453.41ha of which is accessible and 673.16ha which is not.

2.18. **Figures 2.2 – 2.5** show the four green infrastructure distance thresholds (neighbourhood to sub-regional) as applied to the accessible natural and semi-natural green space around Nuneaton and Bedworth. In each figure, accessible green space over the relevant size threshold is shaded in green, and the distance threshold (i.e. the area served by the accessible green spaces) is shown in yellow. The figures

[15] English Nature (2003) English Nature Report 526 'Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for Implementation'.

indicate that the Borough quantitatively has inadequate provision of both County and sub-regional levels sites, but has largely adequate provision of district level sites apart from the south eastern and south western parts of the Borough. Access to local level sites is also largely good. The detailed findings are discussed below.

Sub-regional scale (sites over 500 ha) & County scale (sites over 100 ha)

2.19. Sub-regional green infrastructure is defined in Natural England's ANGSt guidance as sites over 500 hectares in size with a distance threshold of 10km. County scale green infrastructure is defined in Natural England's ANGSt guidance as sites over 100 hectares in size with a distance threshold of 5km. There are no Sub-Regional level or county level sites in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough or within 10km and 5km respectively of the Borough. The Borough therefore has a significant deficit in larger scale publicly accessible open space. Coombe Abbey Country Park is the nearest county level site and lies just beyond 5km from the south east of the Borough. Kingsbury Water Park (260ha) lies within 9km of the Borough boundary.

District scale (sites over 20 ha)

2.20. District scale green infrastructure is defined in Natural England's ANGSt guidance as sites over 20 hectares in size with a distance threshold of 2km. Key sites include:

- Nuneaton Ashby Disused Railway Line;
- Weddington Meadows and Sandon Park;
- Whittleford Park, Bar Pool Valley, Ashwood Road and Poors Piece;
- Thornhill Drive, George Eliot School, Pingles Athletic Stadium, Avenue Road Recreation Ground, Marston Lane Fields and Play Area and Marston Lane Corridor;
- Devoran Close and Bedworth Balancing Lake;
- Hartshill Hayes Country Park (beyond the Borough boundary).

2.21. The Borough has good coverage of District Level sites; however, the whole of Bulkington Village experiences a deficit in Open Space and those households in the Borough to the south of the M6, around Keresley Newlands, Ash and Neal's Green also experience District Level deficiencies in Open Space.

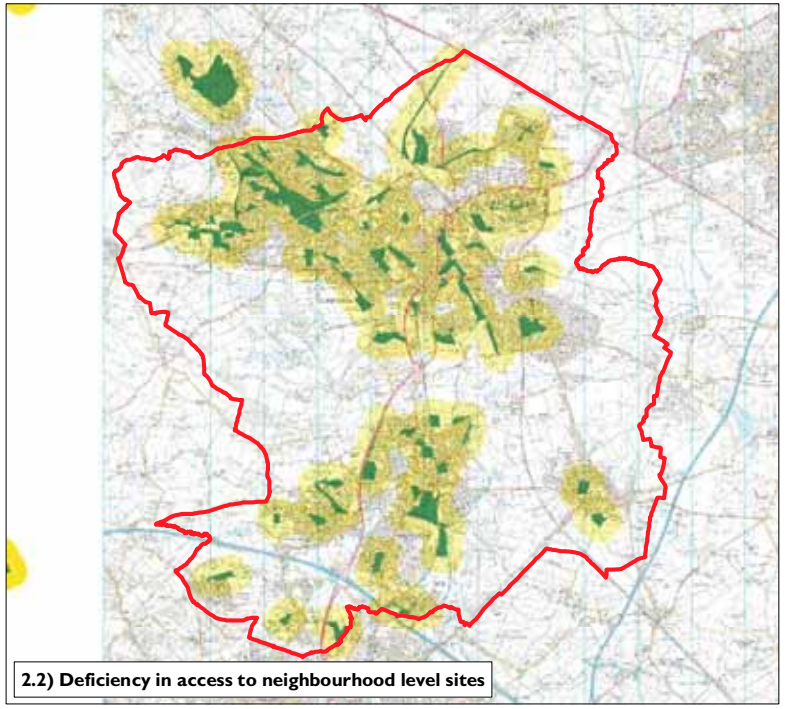
Neighbourhood scale (sites over 2ha)

2.22. In addition to larger scale sites, people need access to sites close to where they live for more localised recreation. The ANGST standards consider that people should have access to a site of at least 2 ha within 300m of their home. Key sites providing a local function, in addition to those larger sites described above, are distributed fairly evenly throughout the urban / built up areas of the Borough.

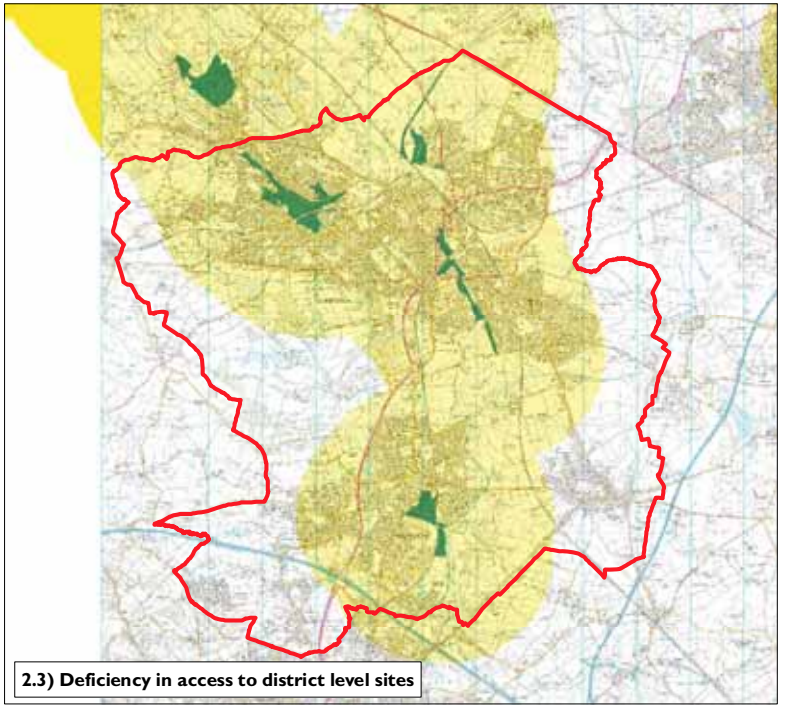
2.23. It can be seen from **Figure 2.2** that Nuneaton and Bedworth is generally well served in terms of localised provision. However, there are still some significant gaps in localised provision namely:

- The western and eastern extremes of Bulkington village;
- Housing to the east of Devoran Close in Bedworth;
- A central corridor of housing in the centre of Bedworth;
- Small parcels of housing on the edge of the main settlements to the south of the M6;
- Housing in Stockingford in Nuneaton;
- A corridor of housing between Weddington and St Nicholas Park;
- A significant corridor of housing to the north, east and south of Whitestone.

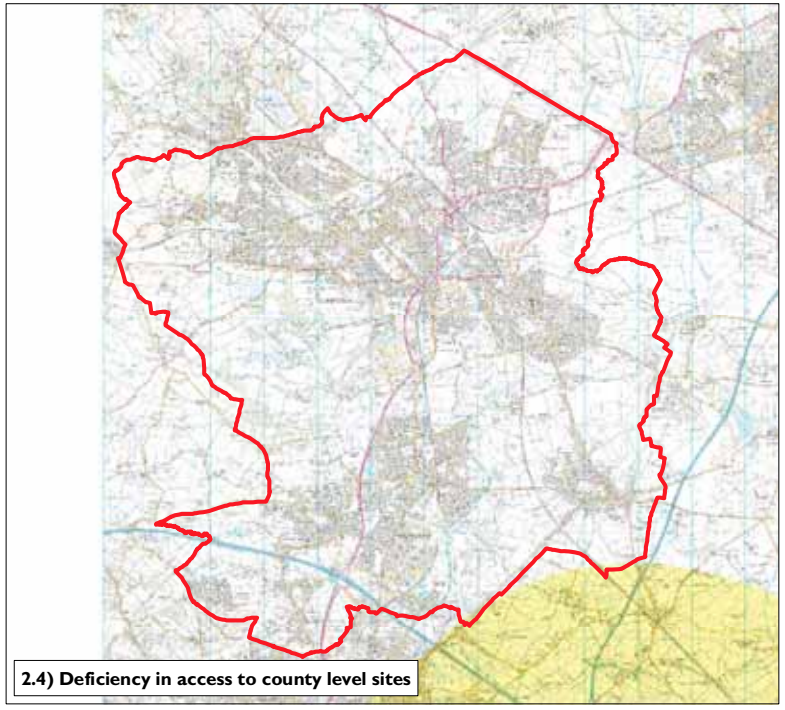
2.24. In addition, at a local level, the Parks and Open Space Strategy for the Borough has identified deficiencies in open space provision to the north east of Nuneaton town, east of Bulkington and to the border with Coventry.



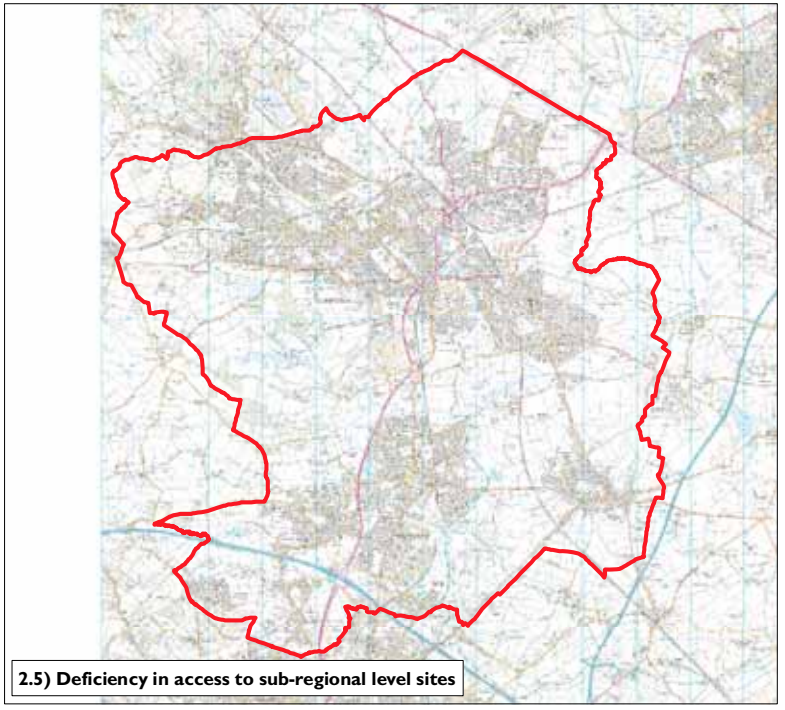
2.2) Deficiency in access to neighbourhood level sites



2.3) Deficiency in access to district level sites



2.4) Deficiency in access to county level sites



2.5) Deficiency in access to sub-regional level sites

Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 2.2 - 2.5 Deficiencies in access to natural greenspace

Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Accessible open space
- Accessible open space catchments

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Source: NBBC, Natural England

Date: 08/10/2009
Revision:

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FUTURE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

2.25. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough is projected to have 10,800 new houses by 2026. Average household size in 2026 is projected to be 2.11 persons per household according to the 2008 produced by ONS. This equates to 22,788 additional people by 2026 whose needs will have to be met in terms of access to green space and other green infrastructure needs within the Borough. However, it is not yet known the location within the Borough where additional housing and this additional 22,788 people will be met.

2.26. Application of local standards (as defined in the 2007 Open Space Assessment) to the accessible greenspace typologies suggests the following additional greenspace will be required to cater for the increased population in the Borough to 2026:

Table 2.3: Future accessible greenspace needs

Typology	Local PPG17 Standard	Current total provision (area in ha)	Additional future need 2026
Parks and gardens	0.6ha / 1000 population	63 (0.5321ha/1000 population)	13.6ha
Natural and semi natural greenspace	2ha / 1000 population	523 (4.394 ha/1000 population)	45.5ha
Green corridors	-	64 (0.537ha /1000 population)	-
Outdoor sports	1.6ha / 1000 population	302 (2.536ha/1000 population)	36.4ha
Amenity greenspace	0.9ha / 1000 population	110 (0.925 ha/1000 population)	20.5ha
Provision for children and young people/play	0.9ha / 1000 population	3.918 (0.032 ha/1000 population)	20.5ha
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	0.3 ha/ 1000 population	36 (0.306 ha/1000 population)	6.8ha
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and	-	16.56 (01.39 ha/1000	-

Typology	Local PPG17 Standard	Current total provision (area in ha)	Additional future need 2026
other burial grounds		population)	

2.27. In addition, in light of future growth, it is likely that enhanced green links will be required for sustainable access to the town centres, employment and opportunities for recreation and access to nature. More specific needs are identified in relation to green infrastructure functions and locality areas, in the next chapter.

3. KEY ISSUES FOR THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

3.1. This section describes the baseline characteristics and the key green infrastructure issues. The following themes have been identified as important in 'painting a picture' of existing green infrastructure provision, and in identifying green infrastructure potential:

- Biodiversity
- Water Resources
- Flooding
- Climate Change
- Food
- Fuel
- Landscape
- Cultural Heritage
- Quality of Life
- Sustainable Transport Routes
- Accessible Greenspace
- Health

BIODIVERSITY

Data used
Nature conservation designations and supporting citations where available
Natural Area Profiles
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)
Local Biodiversity Action Plan

3.2. This section highlights the biodiversity conservation context of the Borough in terms of the most important sites, habitats and species which are present. Key issues are then identified for biodiversity conservation in relation to the planning of green infrastructure. The biodiversity context for the study is shown on **Figures 3.1 and 3.2**.

Natural character of the Borough

3.3. Natural England has characterised England into 120 Natural Areas on the basis of wildlife and natural features[16]. The majority of the Borough falls within Natural Area 43: *Midlands Plateau*, additionally, a small area including land to the north east of Nuneaton town and south and east of the village of Bulkington falls within Natural Area *33: Trent Valley and Rises*. However, given the location of the Borough on the eastern margin of the Midlands Plateau and knowledge of local conditions, it is

[16] Natural England (no date). **Natural Areas** [on-line]. http://www.naturalareas.naturalengland.org.uk/Science/natural/NA_search.asp (accessed June, 2009).

considered that the Borough holds more in common ecologically with the Trent Valley and Rises.

3.4. Outside the Borough, much of the Trent Valley and Rises consists of fertile soils ideal for agriculture and as such a large part of the area is intensively farmed. A number of 'unimproved' habitats remain. Key among these are rivers, stream and canals and their associated habitats (e.g. marsh, swamp, reedbeds and wet floodplain grasslands). These habitats are located broadly in the valleys of the Rivers Trent and Soar but are also associated with a number of restored gravel pits which are of importance for breeding and wintering birds such as warblers and wildfowl. In general, the Trent Valley and Rises is sparsely wooded, however, important woodlands present include ancient semi-natural stands, wet woodland and parkland (in the Borough this includes the remnants of Forest of Arden, associated with the Arbury Estate).

Nature conservation sites

3.5. All statutory protected sites within 5km of Nuneaton are listed in **Appendix 3**. There are only two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) located within the Borough: **Griff Hill Quarry** is notified on geological grounds and **Ensor's Pool** (also a Special Area of Conservation or SAC) is notified on account of a large population of native white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. Both sites have been classified by Natural England as being in favourable condition[17], however, in the case of Ensor's Pool, crayfish are vulnerable to pollution and introduction of non-native crayfish through uncontrolled access.

3.6. There are 20 locally designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These are distributed evenly across the Borough but account for a relatively small area. Among these are roughly equal numbers of sites designated on account of standing water, grassland and woodland habitats. The largest SINC site is **Whittleford Park and Barpool Valley**, a site of former coal mining and brick working. The site contains scrub, woodland and neutral grassland habitats with areas of standing water, swamp and willow carr. The site also contains populations of butterflies, birds, toad *Bufo bufo*, frog *Rana temporaria*, and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* which is uncommon in Warwickshire[18].

3.7. A further 76 sites have been identified as potential SINCs (pSINCs). These are composed of a number of woodland, grassland and standing water sites. Additionally, at least 12 canal pSINCs and a small number of parkland, farmland and former industrial pSINCs have been identified. A number of the pSINCs are former railway lines and canals forming linear connections across the Borough.

3.8. Together with the 20 SINCS, the 76 pSINCs form a network achieving good spatial coverage across the Borough. Possible exceptions to this include the area north of

[17] Natural England carry out a periodic assessment of the condition of nature conservation features (species, habitats and geological exposures) contained within SSSIs. Features are rated as being in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable' condition. When 'unfavourable' condition is judged, further commentary on whether the trend is for improvement or decline and reasons for change in condition are noted. See http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sssi/glossary.aspx for more detail.
[18] Warwickshire County Council (no date). **Whittleford Park: From Bricks to Nature**. [on-line]. http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/Corporate/Pages.nsf/Links/5157EF4B882DBFF180257309004B2803 (accessed June, 2009).

Bulkington (south east part of the Borough), the area around St. Nicolas Park (north east) and the area north of the village of Astley (north west).

National Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats

3.9. **Table 3.1** lists the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats contained within Natural England's GIS BAP habitat inventory. In addition, **Figure 3.1** and **Table 3.1** indicate the distribution of UK BAP habitats. It can be seen that UK BAP habitats make up a relatively small proportion of the Borough and are almost all concentrated in and around the Arbury Estate.

3.10. Due north of the Borough, in between Nuneaton and Atherstone, is an area of more extensive UK BAP habitat coverage including Hartshill Hayes and the area north of the Coventry Canal. This area includes relatively large areas of wet woodland and upland oak wood and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh respectively.

Table 3.1: BAP Priority Habitats in the Borough

BAP Priority Habitat type	Broad distribution
Wet woodland	A number of sites all located around Arbury in the west of the Borough.
Lowland meadow	One site located north of Robinsons End in the west of the Borough.
Undetermined woodland	One site located north of Robinsons End in the west of the Borough.
Undetermined grassland	Two sites including Camp Hill in the north and a site west of Bedworth in the south of the Borough.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan

3.11. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Nuneaton and Bedworth[19] identifies habitats which are of high ecological interest or of conservation concern in a local context and lists actions required to conserve and enhance them. The following habitats have been identified within the Borough:

- *Religious Buildings and Grounds*: including churches & religious areas, cemeteries, crematoria, pet & horse cemeteries, green burial grounds;
- *Recreational Areas*: including formal parks, street trees, open spaces, golf courses and allotments;
- *Wildlife & Geological Sites*: including orchards, wildlife SINC sites, SSSIs, community woodlands, Local Nature Reserves, railway corridors, rivers, streams and canals;
- *Industrial & School Grounds*: including school buildings and grounds, industrial buildings and grounds, houses and gardens and colleges.

[19] Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (no date). **The Nuneaton and Bedworth Biodiversity Action Plan: Action for Wildlife** [on-line] http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/environment-planning/conservation/conservation-advice-natural-environment/biodiversity-action-plan (accessed, May, 2009).

Conservation of species within the Borough

3.12. **Appendix 3** illustrates a selection of species listed on the Warwickshire County LBAP[20], together with an indication of the broad habitat types these may be associated with in the Borough. Key threats and trends for these species are also outlined. It is beyond the scope of the GI Plan to identify conservation issues for all species found within the Borough. However, it is considered that many of the issues outlined in **Appendix 3** (e.g. cessation of management, threats from intensive agriculture) are common to many species and are representative of threats faced by species in each of the broad habitat types.

Key GI issues

Habitat destruction and fragmentation

3.13. Small sites support smaller species populations than large sites and thus face a greater risk of species extinction from natural fluctuations (e.g. weather) or catastrophic events (e.g. flooding, fire etc). Patches of habitats which are fragmented in between areas of development and intensively agriculture may be too distant from one another to permit species to re-colonise formerly occupied sites if they become extinct. This issue may be particularly acute in the following national landscape character areas of the Borough:

- *Arden* - where woodlands are small and sparsely distributed;
- *Mease and Sense Lowlands* - where semi-natural grasslands are isolated amongst intensive arable and pasture land;
- *Leicestershire Vales* - where many hedgerows have been removed limiting connectivity or are 'over-managed' reducing their species complement.

3.14. **Securing appropriate management of existing nature conservation sites**: Existing nature conservation sites would form the 'core areas' of a future ecological network. Many such sites require active management to sustain their biodiversity value (for example, see threats to species in **Appendix 3**). Key factors involved in deterioration of site quality are lack of appropriate grazing (for example, on grasslands and heathlands) and cessation of cutting/pollarding in woodland and wood pasture[21].

3.15. **Low biodiversity value of farmland**: UK BAP Priority habitats form a relatively low proportion of land cover within the Borough. In addition, many landscape features such as hedgerows and small woodlands which offer refuges for wildlife have been removed or are heavily managed. This is especially the case in areas of intensive managed farmland where arable monoculture and botanically species-poor improved pastures form the predominant land cover types. Typical areas within the Borough affected by this issue include farmland both to the east and west of Bedworth, the River Anker Valley and areas north of Nuneaton.

[20] Warwickshire County Council (no date) **Warwickshire, Coventry, and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan** [on-line]. http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity (accessed June, 2009).
[21] Natural England 2008 **State of the Natural Environment** [on-line]. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/sone/sections.aspx (accessed March, 2009).

3.16. **Interruption of functional ecosystem processes**: River courses in the Borough are frequently disconnected from their floodplains and/or canalised severely limiting the natural processes of flooding, erosion and sedimentation and associated wetland habitats, for example, wet woodland, reedbeds, flood meadows. Cultivation frequently occurs up to the edge of many water courses in the Borough, limiting the development of riparian vegetation and wetlands. The biodiversity value of the valleys of Anker, Sowe, the Griff Brook and Breach Brook may be affected in this way. Additionally, high stocking rates on pasture land by livestock prohibits flowering of many grassland herbs and prevents grasslands from establishing a mature sward which is required by many invertebrates, birds, reptiles and small mammals for feeding, sheltering and nesting.

3.17. **Increased visitor numbers:** Along with housing growth, it is likely that there will be an increased demand for outdoor recreation facilities and an increase in the numbers of visitors journeying to key semi-natural open spaces within the Borough. Human activities such as dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking and off-track activities such as orienteering may result in erosion and physical damage to vegetation and lead to disturbance and reduced breeding success of sensitive fauna (e.g. ground nesting birds[22]).

Other points to inform the GI Plan

- Seek to maintain, enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests and reverse the downward trend in the region's biodiversity;

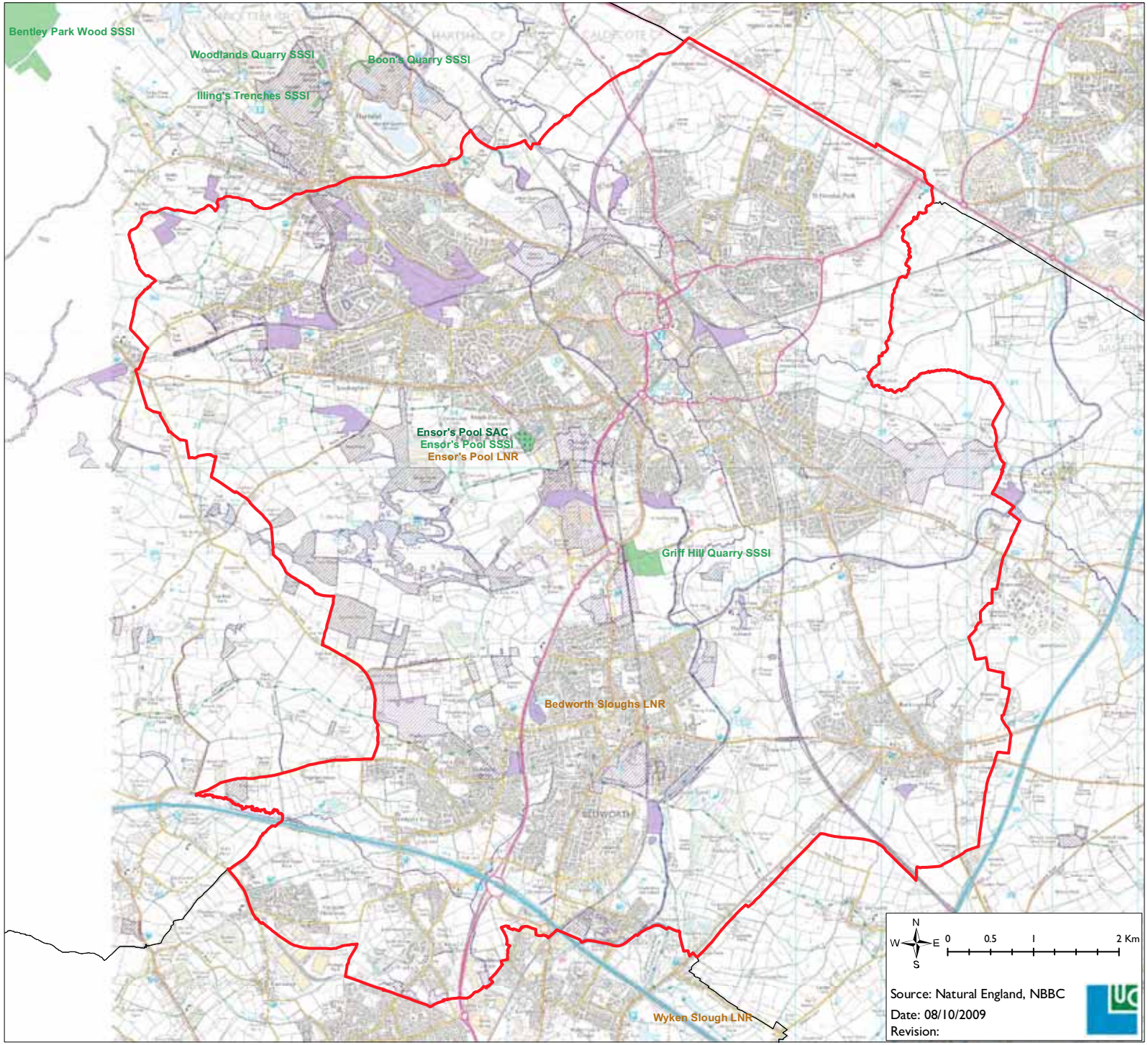
- Place emphasis on habitats and species not subject to specific legal protection, such as BAP priority habitats and species, landscape features of importance for wildlife as corridors or stepping stones for movement and local wildlife sites;

- Promote trees as one of the main tools in urban regeneration and greening programmes as well as using trees to provide ecosystem and other 'social' services.

[22] Langston, R., Drewitt, A. & Liley, D, 2007 **Bird conservation and access: coexistence or compromise?** *British Wildlife*. 19: 1-9.

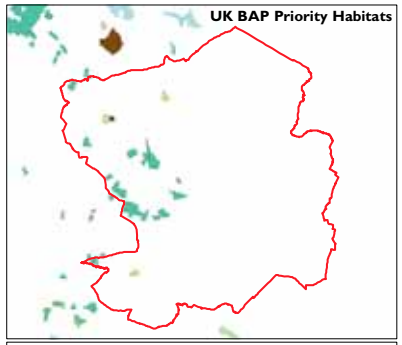
Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

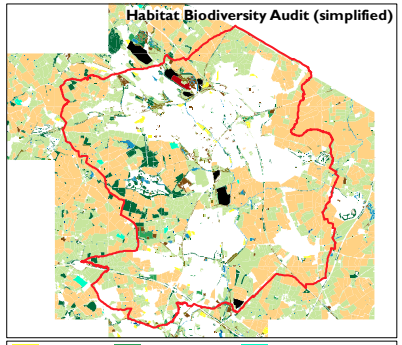
Figure 3.1: Biodiversity



Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
- Potential Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (pSINCs)





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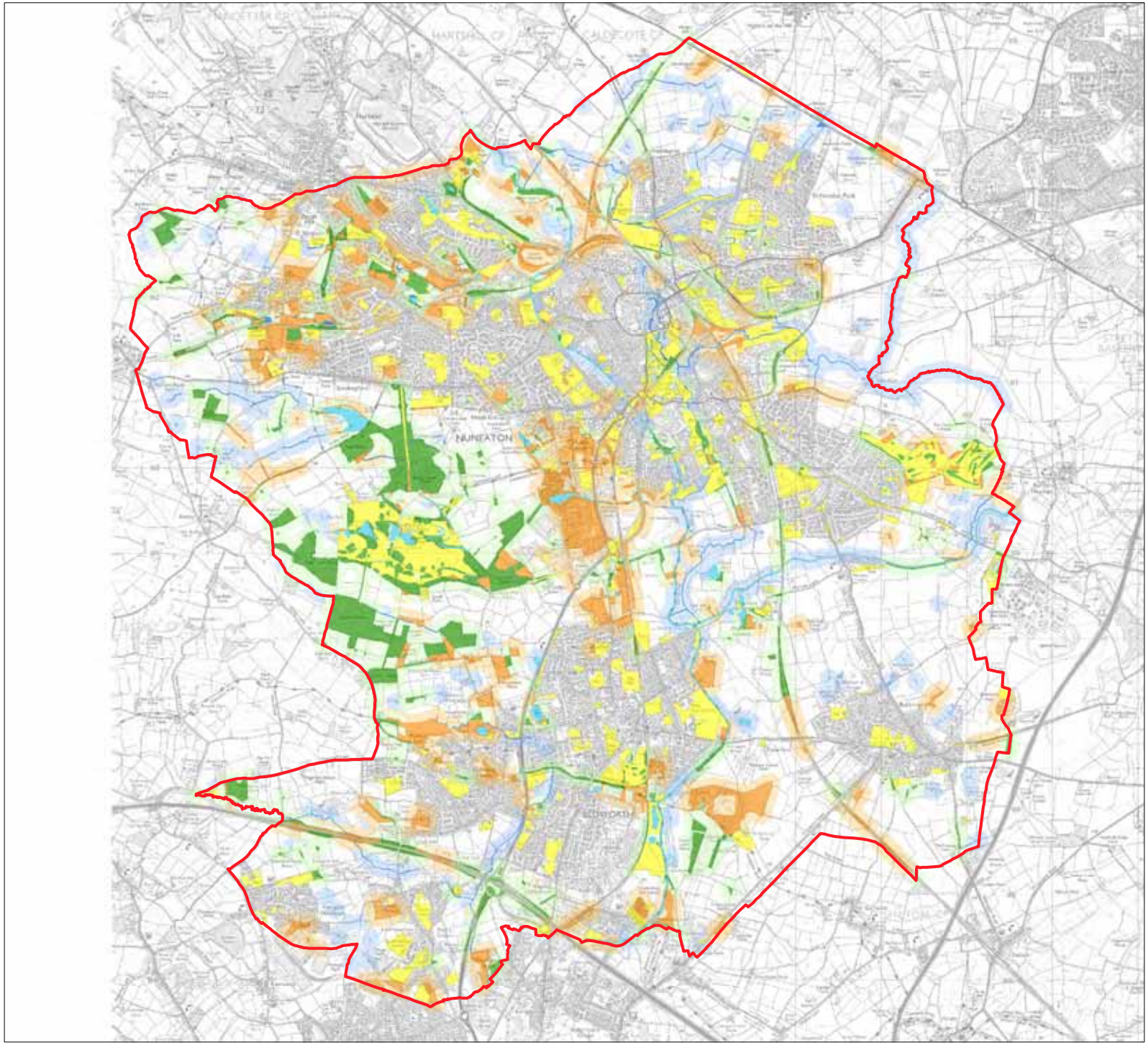
Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 3.2: Local BAP Habitats



Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Woodland (Phase 1: A111, A112, A121, A122, A131, A132)
- Grassland (Phase 1: B21, B22, B11, B12)
- Ponds, reservoirs and canals (Phase 1: G1)
- Rivers/running water (Phase 1: G2)
- Amenity grassland (Phase 1: J12)

100m radius around:

- Waterbodies
- Woodland
- Grassland (excluding amenity)

The shape files were created using HBA 2007 Phase 1 data. Accuracy and currency information can be found within the Warwickshire State of the Environment report available from www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity. The methodology used to produce the existing habitat maps is set out in a report available from the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Coordinator. Please note that areas of nature conservation interest are not only restricted to the habitats shown. These files are part of a wider exercise to understand the current extent and future opportunities for priority habitats within Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

Copyright of the data remains the property of the Habitat Biodiversity Audit for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. While every effort has been made to ensure that the data is accurate in accordance with Phase 1 habitat survey standards, the project cannot guarantee its accuracy or accept responsibility for any changes to landuse or habitat that may have occurred since the survey was undertaken. Data currency: 2007 edition.

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Source: Habitat Biodiversity Audit Office, Warwickshire

Date: 08/10/2009
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WATER RESOURCES AND FLOOD RISK

Data used
Halcrow Group Ltd, 2008 **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

3.18. The West Midlands Regional Flood Risk Appraisal[23] has identified that apart from the headwaters of the River Anker which flow through Nuneaton, there are no rivers of any significance in the Borough. The LPA considers that there are no significant locations in the Borough which are not defended against flooding to a satisfactory standard.

3.19. Within the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Boroughs Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) 2008, one of the recommendations for policy considerations is to enhance and restore the river corridor. This would include assessing the condition of existing components (e.g. culverts, river walls). Any restoration and/or renewal of the components should ensure that the design life is commensurate with the design life of the development. The SFRA recommends that development contributions should be sought for this purpose. Those proposing development should seek opportunities to undertake river restoration. Further culverting should be avoided and new developments with culverting running through their site should seek to de-culvert rivers for flood-risk management and conservation benefits.

3.20. Another objective in the SFRA includes protecting greenfield functional flood plain from future development and reinstating areas of functional floodplain which have been developed. Opportunities should also be sought to make space for water and to accommodate climate change and also space should be specifically set aside for SuDS and used to inform the overall site layout.

3.21. A local level Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been produced for the Borough by Halcrow[24]. This was carried out in accordance with PPS25: Development and Floodrisk[25]. Using floodrisk modelling it identified significant areas of the borough, primarily around the Rivers Anker and Sowe, and associated tributary water courses, as being in Environment Agency flood zones 2 and 3a. Within PPS25, flood zone 2 denotes a medium probability of a future flooding event, whereby all development proposals should be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment, with developers advised to seek to reduce flood risk through both development layout and integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Zone 3a refers to a high probability of a future flooding event. In addition to the above measures, consideration should be given to restoration of functional floodplain and creation of flood flow pathways, as well as identifying, allocating and safeguarding appropriate sites for flood storage.

3.22. The flood zones and the principal water courses within the Borough are shown on **Figure 3.3**. These are the Rivers Sowe and Anker and minor tributary

[23] WMRA, 2007 **West Midlands Regional Flood Risk Appraisal**
[24] Halcrow Group Ltd, 2008 **Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local Development Framework – Level 1**
[25] CLG, 2006 Planning Policy Statement 25: **Development and Flood Risk**

watercourses such as the Wem Brook, which flows north west through the Borough into the Anker, the Breach Brook, flowing into the Sowe, and the Sketchley Brook, which drains into the Anker on the eastern borough boundary. The water courses and associated valleys within the Borough lie mainly on a geology of argillaceous sandstone rock and ancient clay rich igneous volcanic rock, which is largely impermeable.

Key GI Issues

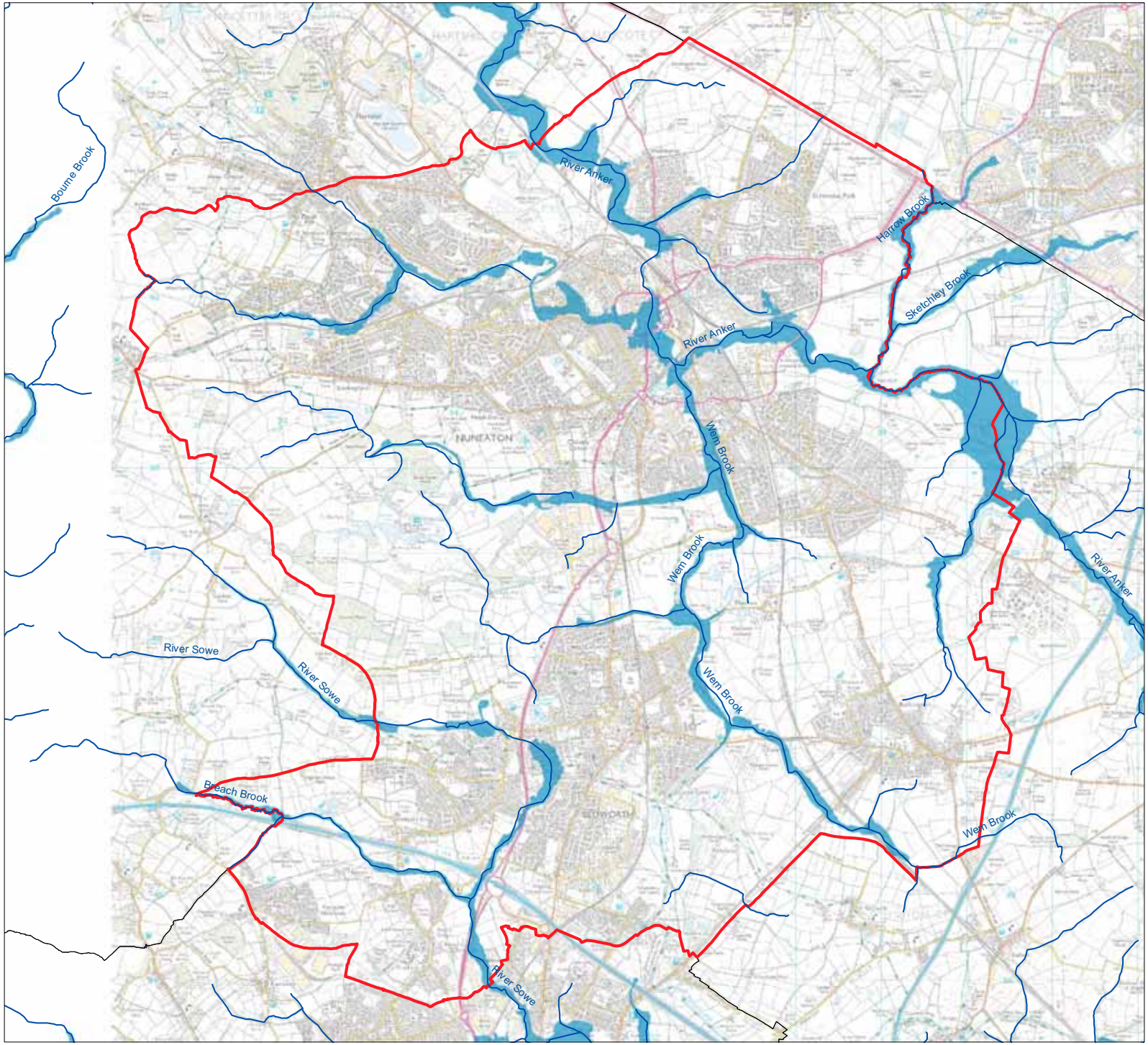
3.23. Nuneaton has a history of flooding within the Anker Valley, most significantly in 1968, after which a major flood channel was constructed in the town, and in December 1992. The SFRA identifies several purpose built flood storage facilities within the Borough. These include the Barpool Valley Balancing Lake at Camp Hill (constructed for the Camp Hill Estate and currently being upgraded) and a balancing pool located to the north of The Willows. A key issue in relation to such facilities will be ongoing management to ensure efficient operation during a future flooding event.

3.24. A number of engineered flood defences already existing along the course of the Anker within the urban area, and these are of variable quality. Buildings adjacent to the watercourse at Attleborough, and near Riversley Park, have a lower level of protection against a future flooding event.

3.25. The Catchment Flood Management Plan for the Trent Valley identifies Nuneaton (within Policy unit 9: Upper Soar and Upper Anker Valley) as one of the areas affected by potential future flooding, although the recently constructed flood by pass channel within Nuneaton has reduced the probability of flooding by approximately 1%. However, the SFRA states that flood levels over the next 100 years may increase by as much as 20% in light of climate change.

Other points to inform the GI plan

- The SFRA considers that there are no significant locations in the borough which are not defended against flooding to a satisfactory standard;
- It is recommended that river corridors are enhanced and restored/de culverted for flood risk management and conservation benefits, and further culverting avoided.



Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 3.3: Strategic Flood Risk

Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Zone 3A
- Rivers

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Source: NBBC

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Data used
UK Climate Impacts Programme, 2004, **The Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the West Midlands**
Warwickshire Climate Change Partnership, 2006, **Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy**

3.26. The scenarios produced by the UK Climate Impacts Programme in 2002 (UKCIP02 scenarios) describe how the climate of the UK may change in the 21st century. **The Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the West Midlands** identities several key changes which these scenarios present to the region, these include:

- An increase in annual temperature by between 0.5°C and 1.5°C by the 2020s and 1.0°C and 2.5°C by the 2050s;
- Warwickshire (Nuneaton and Bedworth) and the south east of the region are expected to receive higher temperatures than Shropshire and the north west of the region;
- Due to warmer, drier summers the soil moisture could fall by between 5% in the north west of the region and 35% in the south east in the summer by the 2050s. In winter however the increased precipitation could lead to higher soil moisture levels and an increased probability of flooding;
- UKCIP02 also recognises the occurrence of extreme climate change events is likely to increase.

3.27. It is not only the impacts of climate change that will influence future land use planning but also the necessary actions required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15%-18% by 2010 and 60% by 2050 (against 1990 levels) which will require careful planning.

Key GI issues

The key issues in relation to the main impacts of climate change within the region are set out below.

3.28. **Flooding -** An increase in winter precipitation is likely to increase the risk of flooding in the region, particularly around the main rivers such as the River Severn. There is an opportunity for planning and creating new flood tolerant landscapes and areas for flood storage or defence to improve flood risk management. Sustainable drainage systems and the extension of wetlands can also help minimise the impacts of flooding. The design and change in management of flood risk areas will provide key opportunities for adapting to landscape change.

3.29. **Water Resources** – Seasonal changes in rainfall could affect water demand and supply dramatically. The planning of new reservoirs and local level storage facilities is likely to increase to make use of increased winter precipitation. Summer droughts will increase demand for water dramatically, particularly for irrigation with soils moisture levels falling by up to 23% by 2020.

3.30. **Agricultural Landscapes** – Changing climatic conditions may cause shifts in the planting of particular crops, and provide the opportunity to grow alternative crops, such as those for energy. Increases in precipitation could limit the use of land for agriculture; this is likely to be met with new options for flood defences or alternative drainage systems. Increased pressure on agricultural landscapes may lead to many farmers converting land to non-agricultural use, providing opportunities for new green infrastructure.

3.31. **Woodlands and Recreation** – Changes in climate variables could result in greater opportunities for forestry and may increase the land used for trees. There is also likely to be an increase in the number of trees/woodlands planted to reverse CO_2 levels. Increasing summer temperatures are likely to be met with an increased demand for open green space and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

3.32. **Transport** – Warmer, drier summers could encourage more walking and cycling, for both leisure and travel to work. The appropriate infrastructure must be in place to meet an increasing demand.

Other points to inform the GI Plan

- Meet the challenge of climate change in a way that strengthens and benefits the region's economy.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Data used
Allotments data in the Open Space Assessment

3.33. The following table shows the number of allotments within the borough.

Town	Number of Allotment Sites	Total Area (Ha)
Bedworth	10	11.84
Nuneaton	18	23.04
Bulkington	1	1.55

3.34. There are currently no community gardens, farms or other food growing initiatives within the borough.

Key GI issues

3.35. The demand for allotments and community gardens should be assessed and acted on appropriately, allocating areas for new allotments or restoring and enhancing existing facilities to encourage food growing and promote related self-sufficiency. Allotments and community gardens should also be incorporated as part of new developments.

3.36. Community greenspaces such as community farms and allotments act as points of interest along footpaths and cycle routes and can encourage people to engage more

with their local environment. There is also the opportunity to form friends groups and volunteer projects for restoration and maintenance at community gardens and greenspaces.

3.37. Whilst allotment sites are used to varying intensities within Nuneaton, there is demand in Bedworth and Bulkington. Allotments at Bedworth are at capacity, whilst there is a deficiency at Bulkington.

FUEL PRODUCTION

Data used
Warwick District Council ,**Warwickshire Tree and Woodland Strategy**
Advantage West Midlands, **Wood for Energy**

3.38. Global warming and moves towards sustainable development has meant increased attention has been given to renewable energy. One source of renewable energy that is particularly relevant to green infrastructure is biofuels (scope for woodland creation). Sourcing fuel from wood is a cheaper option than oil, coal or LPG and is generally considered to be carbon neutral. Sourcing fuel from local woodlands can contribute to the restoration and expansion of local green space through new planting and management which provides both ecological and landscape benefits.

3.39. The West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework sets out objectives for the future management and development of the region's woodlands. Objective WE 2 of the framework requires local authorities to support and target locations for short-rotation coppice and forest residues as sources of wood fuel. An overarching aim for the region is to ensure wood fuel becomes a significant contributor to the region's energy supply in all business, public sector and domestic markets.

3.40. The Forest of Mercia, one of the UK's 12 community forests has trialled wood heating using pellets and logs. Originally heating a school and the project offices it now has an action plan for extending wood fuel use, including developing a cluster of other wood fuel user sites to stimulate private sector uptake.

Key GI issues

3.41. There is the opportunity for new recreational spaces, green routes and cycle ways if green infrastructure is considered in the design and planning of new woodlands. New planting should aim to connect with existing woodlands and green infrastructure.

3.42. Steep declines in farming incomes and increased financial pressures have led many land owners to seek more profitable land uses. The planting of energy crops such as willow (short rotation coppice) and miscanthus is one such alternative, although this has implications, in terms of changes to landscape character. Rural diversification may provide opportunities for new green infrastructure and rights of way agreements with land owners.

Other points to inform the GI Plan

- Promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources.

PLACE, CHARACTER AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Due to the distribution of cultural heritage assets within the Borough, this has been considered as a subset of place and character here.

Data used
Landscape Character Assessments (National Character Areas, Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Landscape Assessment)
RIGS
National Heritage Designations (Historic Parks and Gardens, Sites and Monuments Record, Listed Buildings)
Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

3.43. This section summarises the sense of 'place' of the Borough, with reference to landscape character and cultural heritage, noting key issues and opportunities as they relate to the planning of green infrastructure. The landscape and cultural heritage context are shown at **Figures 3.4** and **3.5**.

Historic Landscape Character (HLC)

3.44. The HLC identifies a number of historic landscape processes which have had, and continue to have, expression on the landscape of the Borough. These include the presence of parkland and designed landscape (sites such as Arbury and within the town parks such as Miner's Welfare Park, Bedworth and Bedworth Cemetery). Within the wider agricultural landscape are blocks of broadleaf ancient woodland first recorded on Greenwood's 1822 Map[26], and field patterns which may once have formed part of the wider estate landscape of Arbury, in addition to areas of field boundary loss (the legacy of 20th Century postwar agricultural practice), to the north of the Arbury Estate. Area of intact, possibly planned enclosure landscape pattern, existing to the north east of Nuneaton, and south west of Bedworth whilst land to the east is characterised by large scale field patterns (modern field systems), with some earlier landscape structure evident.

3.45. Other aspects of the historic landscape relate to the hydrology of the designed landscape of Arbury, e.g. Seeswood Pool, which is reputed to have been a feeder pond for the now largely lost Arbury Canal system. The presence of quarrying is also identified at Judkins Quarry (Tuttle Hill Quarry) which was recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey and at Griff.

[26] C. and J. Greenwood's **Map of the County of Warwick from Actual Survey made in the Years 1820 and 1821**
(From: **'The hundreds of Warwickshire', A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 3: Barlichway hundred** (1945), pp. 1-4. URL: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=56972 Date accessed: 24 September 2009).

Landscape character

3.46. The Borough falls partly within three national landscape character areas[27]. These are:

- *Arden;*
- *Leicestershire Vales;*
- *Mease/Sence Lowlands.*

3.47. Defining characteristics of these areas (within and near the Borough) are given below, together with summaries of the characteristics of the relevant local character areas within the Borough Landscape Assessment[28], which are based on Level 2 Landscape Description Units (LDUs).

Arden

3.48. An historic, well wooded farmland landscape to the south of Cannock Chase with a strong rectilinear hedgerow network, and characterised by ancient wood-pastures, areas of common land and remnant heathland. An intricate small scale landscape, with historic deer parks and parkland estates (such as Arbury, seat of the Newdegate family) a key feature. The rolling landform and presence of low, rounded hills, create a landscape of contained character and framed views. This is variable at points however, with man made landforms (the relics of mineral working and mining, for example local landmarks such as 'Mount Jud', at Judkin's Quarry). The localised exposure of the underlying rock and mudstone in relation to industrial activity is another characteristic of the Arden landscape in some areas, e.g. the distinctive ridge to the north west of Nuneaton.

3.49. One of the more wooded parts of the West Midlands, Arden formed part of the ancient (and now largely vanished) 'Forest of Arden' to which Shakespeare alluded, an expanse of wooded wastes and heathlands. Ancient woodland, small farm woodlands and mature hedgerow oaks still feature prominently.

3.50. The landscape of Arden is threaded with an intricate network of small scale river valleys, in addition to the winding course of the Coventry Canal, and mineral workings are frequently visible e.g. Hartshill Hayes, Judkin's Quarry. The northern edge of the character areas has an urban fringe character (e.g. red brick towns such as Nuneaton, the Birmingham conurbation).

Cultural heritage features within Arden National Character Area

- Ruins of St Mary's Priory and precincts;
- Arbury Hall and park – G11*listed Registered Historic Park and Garden, on the site of a former Augustinian Priory;
- Astley Castle moated site (just beyond the Borough boundary, adjacent to a public footpath);

[27] http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/areas/default.aspx
[28] NBBC and Warwickshire County Council, 2008 **Landscape Assessment of the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth: Sensitivity and Condition Study**

- Corley Camp Univallate Fort, a Celtic hillfort, now largely ploughed out and disturbed by quarrying (beyond the Borough boundary);
- Oldbury Camp Univallate Hillfort, Bowl Barrow and Hartshill Castle, within Hartshill Hayes Country Park (beyond the Borough boundary);
- George Eliot's birthplace (South Farm, on the edge of the Arbury Estate).

3.51. The Borough Landscape Assessment divides the national character area in to a series of smaller landscape types, reflecting local variations in character. Within the Borough these are *Ancient Arden*, *Industrial Arden and Arden Parklands*. Summary characteristics of these areas are given below:

Ancient Arden

3.52. A small scale, intricate agricultural landscape, with undulating topography (low rounded hills, steeper scarp slopes and small, incised valleys. Landscape pattern is historic and irregular – small to medium sized fields and narrow winding lanes, often within high hedgebanks, and with mature hedgerow and roadside oaks often typical. An intensely wooded character is created by woodlands and wooded watercourses, giving a strong sense of containment. Field ponds, associated with permanent pasture, are distinctive. The Borough Landscape Assessment accords this area a high overall sensitivity (high cultural sensitivity, moderate visual sensitivity). Key points in respect of landscape condition include decline in landscape fabric associated with loss of pasture to arable (around Keresley).

Industrial Arden

3.53. A unique industrial landscape within the north eastern part of Arden, and with the character of the landscape heavily influenced both by the underlying geology and by coal mining and hard rock (granite) quarrying. Spoil heaps overgrown with scrub and grassland are the legacy of this industrial heritage as is the settlement pattern (rows of red brick terraced housing - former mining villages). Industrial Arden is an 'urban fringe' landscape of variable quality, with many detracting features present (roads, railways and utilities infrastructure, such as pylons, and run down farmland, including paddocks). The Borough Landscape Assessment judges the area to have a moderate overall sensitivity (combination of moderate cultural and visual sensitivities). The assessment notes the general condition of the area to be in decline, with widespread loss of hedgerows and landscape structure south of Nuneaton at Griff.

Arden Parklands

3.54. A gently rolling, planned landscape of medium to large scale, incorporating areas of former wood pasture and parklands, with woodland edges containing middle distance views. Large country houses within parklands are characteristic. The impression of a 'sylvan' landscape is reinforced by large scale irregular woodlands, mature hedgerow oaks and wooded watercourses, in a landscape which is often intensively farmed and subject to development pressures. The Borough Landscape Assessment has accorded the area a high overall sensitivity in view of the relative intactness of the cultural landscape.

Leicestershire Vales

3.55. A landscape formed of gentle clay ridges and vales, defined by Tudor and early Parliamentary Enclosure, with low, dense field boundary hedgerows and variable density of tree cover (field boundary hedgerows and small farm woodlands). As such the landscape has a relatively open character, and the large scale areas of settlement (often characterised by high density late 19th and 20th Century red brick built development) appear prominent, with urban fringe uses often visible. The landscape has a settled character throughout, with church spires often forming prominent skyline elements. The presence of Watling Street Roman Road (forming the north eastern Borough boundary) indicates the great time depth of the landscape.

Cultural heritage features within the Leicestershire Vales National Character Area

- Course of Watling Street Roman Road;
- Deserted village of Stretton Baskerville (beyond Borough boundary);

3.56. The Borough Landscape Assessment divides the national character area in to a series of smaller landscape types, reflecting local variations in character. Within the Borough these are the *High Cross Plateau, Village Farmlands*. Summary characteristics of these areas are given below:

High Cross Plateau, Village Farmlands

3.57. This landscape character area falls partly within Arden and Leicestershire Vales National Character areas. Key characteristics: small scale, pastoral landscape, associated with nucleated village settlements around the plateau fringe. An intimate and varied landscape is created by the interplay of clustered settlement, narrow lanes, hedged field boundaries and undulating topography/small valleys, in marked contrast to the *Open Plateau* beyond. Overall sensitivity is judged to be high within the Borough Landscape Assessment, in view of the cohesiveness of the cultural landscape and high levels of visibility. In terms of condition, this is judged by the assessment to be in decline, due to hedgerow and landscape structure loss.

3.58. In addition some very small parts of the more open and large scale landscape of the *High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau*, lie within the easternmost part of the Borough.

Mease/Sence Lowlands

3.59. A large scale, 'clayland' open arable landscape, of gently rolling landform and cut by the Ashby de la Zouche canal and a series of broad river valleys (such as the Anker and associated tributaries) with comparatively sparse woodland cover, save for the occasional spinney and group of riverside trees. A late Enclosure rectilinear hedgerow pattern is a distinctive aspect of the cultural landscape as are scattered parkland estates with imposing houses.

3.60. There are no designated cultural heritage features within the character area.

3.61. The Borough Landscape Assessment identifies one local landscape character area within the *Mease/Sence Lowlands*. This is the *Mease Lowlands, Estate Farmlands character area*.

Mease Lowlands, Estate Farmlands

3.62. This is a landscape of gentle rolling topography, cut by a network of shallow valleys. The landscape is defined by an orderly, geometric patchwork of fields (the legacy of Parliamentary Enclosure) and small scale game covert woodlands. These are often associated with parklands which are distinctive components in a landscape otherwise characterised by arable cultivation. The Borough Landscape Assessment has judged overall sensitivity to be low. The landscape is often in declining condition due to the predominantly arable land use and associated loss of the hedgerow network.

Key GI issues

3.63. This sets out a brief summary of past and ongoing changes in landscape character as they relate to green infrastructure, primarily in terms of condition/management. Accessibility of the landscape is also considered.

Arden

Condition and management

- Suburbanisation of settlement edges and erosion of rural character with generic developments – little sense of place;
- Loss and fragmentation of the landscape structure associated with changes in management and agricultural intensification;
- Decline in tree planting and arboricultural management within an 'ageing' landscape; loss of ancient woodlands in the mid 20th Century;
- Straightening of river courses due to agricultural practice and attendant loss of biodiversity assets;
- Trunk roads and motorways (M6) which cut through the historic landscape, and ignore the landscape pattern.

3.64. A number of these issues are also reflected in the local character areas identified within the Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment.

Accessibility

- Crossed by a network of footpaths/rights of way and way marked routes (Centenary Way, Coventry Way) within the Borough;
- Some access to river valleys e.g. River Sowe, along Coventry Way, although this is often intermittent;
- Arbury Hall Gardens and park are in private ownership and open irregularly (Bank Holiday weekends, admission charge).

Leicestershire Vales

Condition and management

- Loss of tree cover to Dutch Elm Disease and Ash die back;

- Poorly integrated, exposed modern high density settlement edges – often poor landscape/townscape interface;
- Restoration of former mineral workings, which does not always reflect underlying landscape character, though such restoration schemes are often of biodiversity and nature conservation interest;
- Neglect of hedgerow management and associated fragmentation.

Accessibility

- Within the Borough, the landscape is crossed only by a sparse PROW network;
- Little or no river access to Anker Valley;

Mease/Sence Lowlands

Condition and management

- The area was subject to much arable intensification in the mid-later 20th Century, and associated loss of field boundary landscape structure;
- Neglect of some parkland landscapes also an issue;
- Neglect of hedgerow management and associated fragmentation.

3.65. Issues in respect of deterioration in landscape structure are also reflected in the local character areas identified within the Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment.

Accessibility

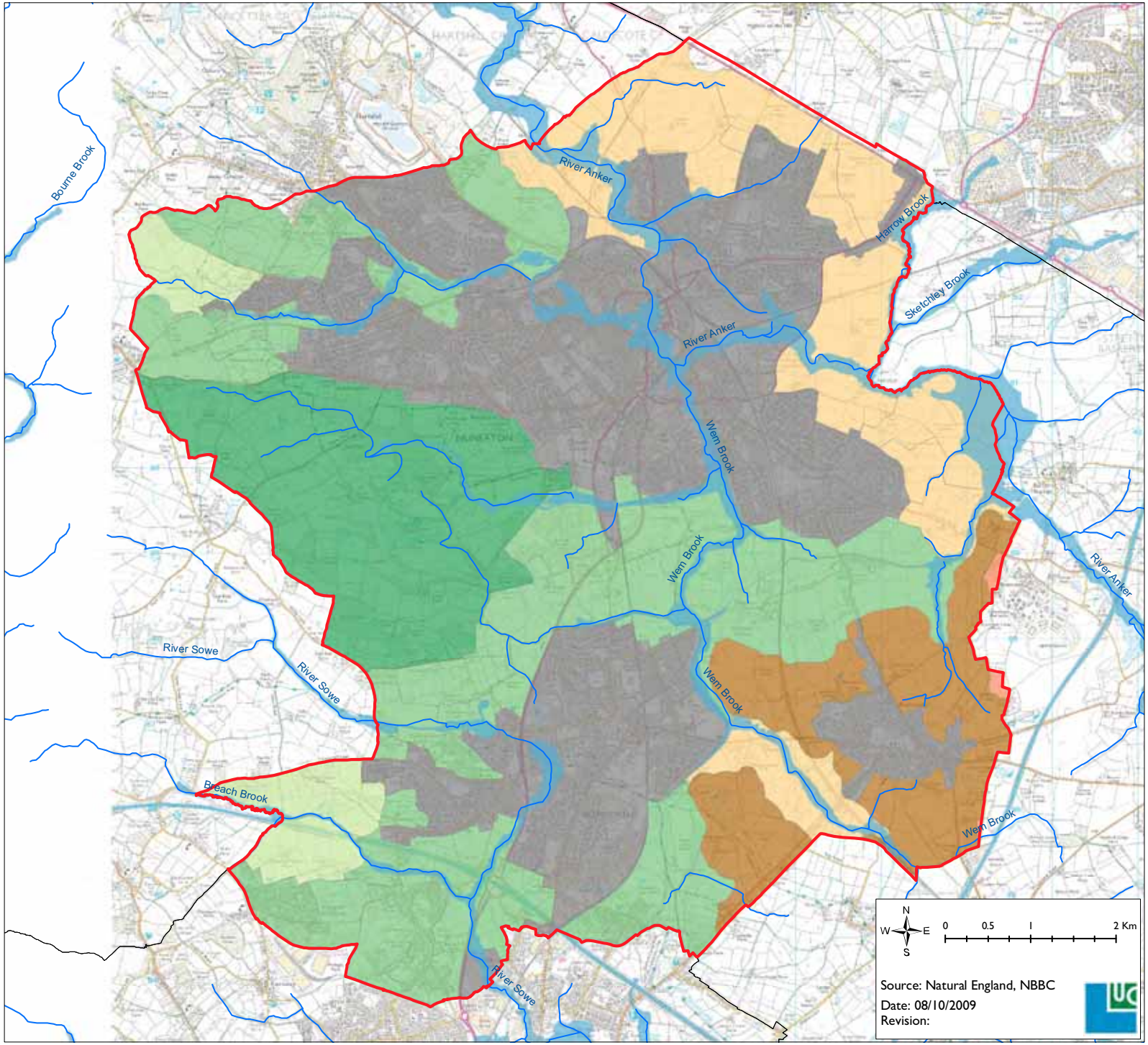
- The landscape within the Borough is crossed by a network of PROWs.

Other points to inform the GI Plan

- Landscape quality objectives should be considered in the protection, management and planning of geographical areas, in accordance with the approach adopted by the European Landscape Convention (ELC). Green infrastructure can be key in contributing to the place-making agenda, which is closely related to the ELC;
- Promote the link between green infrastructure and archaeology and the ability of open spaces to protect important remains that occur within development sites.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 3.4: Place



Key

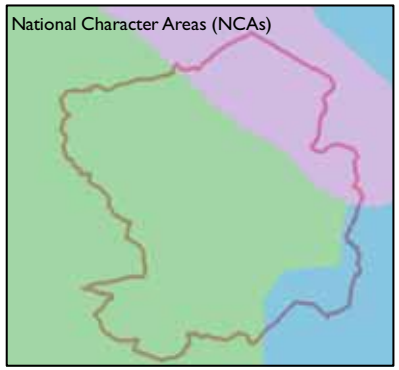
- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Rivers

Landscape Character Types

- Arden, Ancient Arden
- Arden, Industrial Arden
- Arden, Arden Parklands
- High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau
- High Cross Plateau, Village Farmlands
- Mease Lowlands, Estate Farmlands
- Urban

National Character Areas (NCAs)

- Arden
- Leicestershire Vales
- Mease/Sence Lowlands



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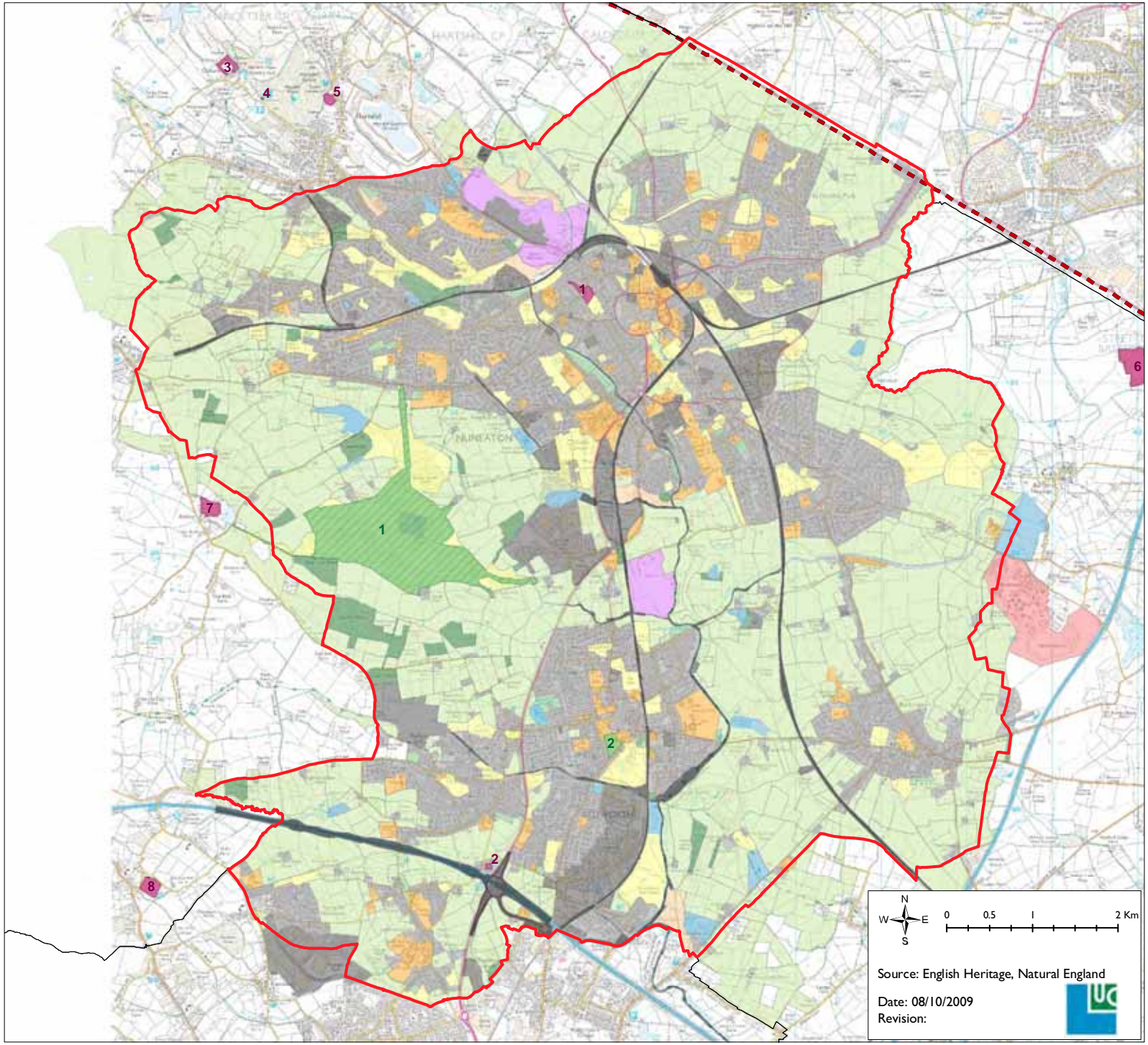

Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 3.5: Cultural Heritage

Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Listed buildings
- Watling Street Roman Road
- Historic parks and gardens
  - 1: Arbury Hall (restricted access)
  - 2: Bedworth Cemetery (Coventry Road Cemetery)
- Scheduled monuments

Within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

- 1: The Benedictine Priory And Precinct of St Mary, Nuneaton
- 2: Moated Site at Exhall Hall

Outside Borough

- 3: Oldbury Camp Univallate Hillfort
- 4: Bowl Barrow 580m East of Moor Wood Farm
- 5: Hartshill Castle
- 6: Deserted Village of Stretton Baskerville
- 7: Astley Castle Moated Site, Fishponds, Garden Remains and Astley College
- 8: Corley Camp Univallate Hillfort

- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland

Historic landscape charater

- Civic and Commercial
- Designed Landscape
- Extractive
- Fieldscapes
- Industrial
- Military
- Orchards and Allotments
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Unimproved Land
- Water and Valley Floor
- Woodland

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QUALITY OF LIFE

Data used
Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)
Core Strategy Scoping Report
Crime and Disorder and Drugs Misuse Strategy

3.66. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are shown at **Figure 3.6**. Disaggregating the IMD into its component parts revealed the following.

Living environment

3.67. 'Living environment' refers to both 'indoor' (e.g. quality of housing) and 'outdoor' (e.g. air quality and road traffic accidents) environments. Key findings from this dataset are that only 1 Local Super Output Area (LSOA) within Exhall Ward falls within the 10-20% most deprived percentile. Deprivation in this respect is otherwise comparatively low across the Borough.

Crime

- 9 LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived percentile (within Exhall, Heath, Poplar, Bede, Camp Hill, Bar Pool and Abbey Wards);
- In addition a further 16 LSOAs fall within the 10-20% most deprived percentile. In addition to the wards noted for the most deprived above, these also fall within Arbury, Kingswood, Wem Brook and Attleborough Wards.

3.68. Crime, community safety and the fear/perception of crime are particular issues noted within the Core Strategy Scoping Report and by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The County and District User Satisfaction Survey illustrates that fear of crime and disorder is the most significant factor influencing the quality of life of residents in Nuneaton & Bedworth. Fear of crime is recognised as unnecessarily high in view of the low crime rates, with reducing the fear of crime as important as reducing criminal activity itself.

3.69. Crimes which relate to use and misuse of greenspace, and which were identified by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in the **Crime and Disorder and Substance Misuse Plan** 2008-2011[29], include vehicle crime (theft from vehicles). Also criminal damage/anti social behaviour, substance abuse, domestic and distraction burglary, and theft from person. The document reveals that some 33% of residents in the Borough felt there was a 'high' perceived level of anti social behaviour in their area (2006/07). In addition, it refers to the 'fear of crime', citing that 59% of residents were either 'very worried' or fairly worried' about crime in their area (2006/07).

[29] Nuneaton and Bedworth Safer Communities Partnership 2008 **Crime and Disorder and Substance Misuse Plan 2008-11**

Income

- LSOAs within Camp Hill, Barpool and Wem Brook Wards fall within the 10% most deprived percentile in respect of income deprivation;
- A further 8 LSOAs fall within the 10-20% most deprived percentile. These fall within the Kingswood, Camp Hill, Abbey, Wem Brook, Bede and Poplar Wards.

Education

- There are significant pockets of deprivation within the Borough, with LSOAs within the following wards all falling within the 10% most deprived percentile – Kingswood, Camp Hill, Bar Pool and Wem Brook;
- However much of the LSOA adjacent to the town centre and within Abbey Ward has lower levels of deprivation in respect of education, falling within the 10-20% most deprived percentile. In addition a further 11 LSOAs fall within this percentile, within the Borough.

Key GI issues

3.70. Information provided by the client group and the Core Strategy Scoping Report[30] has identified a number of relevant issues in respect of household incomes, car ownership, transport links, the local economy and social deprivation. These are summarised below.

- Average gross weekly pay in Nuneaton and Bedworth, at £454.50, is below the County (£479.10) and national (£462.60) averages, although it is higher than the regional average of £430.40.
- At the time of the 2001 Census, 75.9% of households in the Borough owned one or more cars, with 31.6% owning two or more cars, and just 5.9% of the working population travelling to work on public transport;
- The Borough has a range of transport links, within both Nuneaton and Bedworth served by the Trent Valley branch of the West Coast Mainline Railway, and in close proximity to the motorway network. Both of the towns within the Borough are accessible from the M6, M69, M42, M40, M1 and the A5 to the north of Nuneaton;
- In terms of working population, this is relatively large, and slightly younger than the County average, with 34.4% under 30 years old. The population is, however, an ageing one, which is likely to create further social care needs in future;
- Health of residents in Nuneaton and Bedworth is generally below the national average. Levels of physical activity and obesity are poorer than the national average;
- The Borough has the highest crime and anti-social behaviour rate (per 1,000 population) in the West Midlands region. Relevant to this are the poor perceptions of public safety in the evening, within the Borough;

[30] NBBC 2008 **Core Strategy Scoping Report**

- The Borough has a diverse economy. The most common business sector is Manufacturing. Other significant sectors are Wholesale & Retail Trade, Health & Social Work and Transport Storage and Communication. The level of unemployment (based on claimant counts for July 2009) is 5.3% overall (7.6% for males and 2.8% for females), which is below the regional average (5.4%) but higher than the Warwickshire average (3.8) and (4.1);

- In terms of unemployment within Nuneaton and Bedworth, this is, at 6.1%, higher than national (5.2%), regional (5.9%) and county (4.7%) averages;

- The Scoping Report notes the need for investment and development in the town centres in order to reinforce their position in light of potential threats from competing centres;

- Nuneaton and Bedworth has the highest levels of deprivation in the county, and contains the county's most deprived Super Output Area (SOA). This is the Bar Pool North and Crescents SOA within Nuneaton, which is ranked 1,087th out of the 32,482 English SOAs, placing it within the 4% most deprived SOAs in the country;

- The Scoping Report notes the correlation in terms of life expectancy and most and least deprived areas. The gap is 5.9 years for men and 5.0 years for women;

- In order to combat issues of social exclusion in Camp Hill, there has been a major programme to regenerate the area (including the 'Pride in Camp Hill Project'[31]), the aim of which has been to transform the Camp Hill area into an urban village through a series of physical and social regeneration initiatives, in addition to use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers, to create a sustainable community founded on effective economic development.

3.71. Analysis of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data (shown on Figure 3.5) reflects this picture of social deprivation, with key findings as follows:

- 5 Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are within the 10% most deprived percentile (these are within Kingswood, Barpool and Camp Hill Wards, and near the town centre, within Abbey Ward, and to the south, straddling the railway line, within Wem Brook Ward);

- A further 7 LSOAs fall within the 10-20% most deprived percentile (within the Camp Hill, Wem Brook, Bede and Poplar Wards)

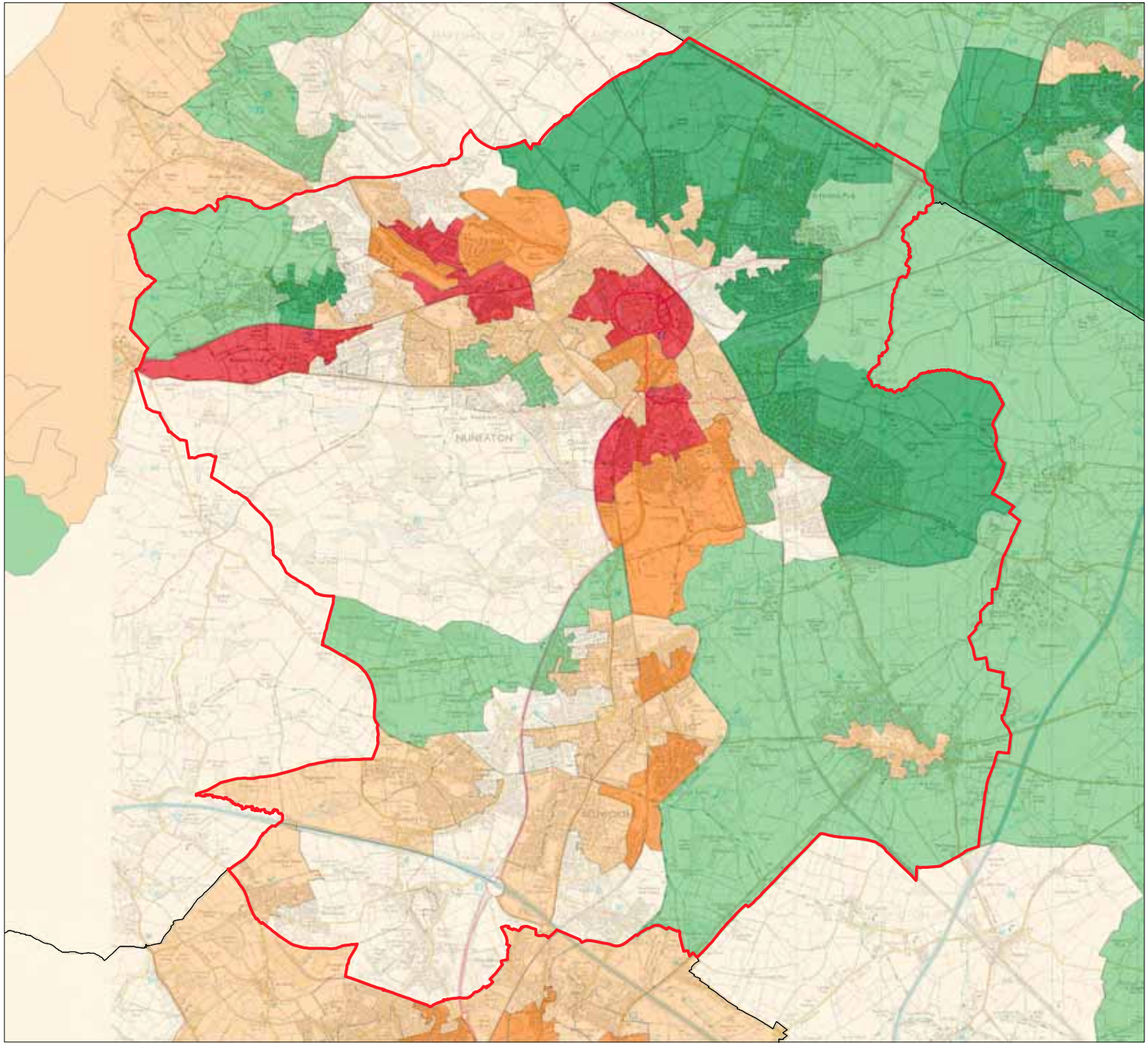
Other points to inform the GI Plan

- Create inclusive, safe and crime free communities. Plan out crime and the perception of it within developments, through incorporating opportunities for natural surveillance and involving communities in ongoing management;

- Focus on the role of place in both attracting and enabling economic growth. High quality locations and environments can encourage businesses and highly

[31] http://www.prideincamphill.co.uk/

skilled workforces to locate there. Poor quality environments can limit investment, reduce aspirations and lead to negative stereotyping.



Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 3.6: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007

Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) percentile of England-wide rank (LSOA)

- 0 - 10 (Most deprived)
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- 40 - 60
- 60 - 80
- 80 - 100 (Least deprived)

N
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0 0.5 1 2 Km

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007

Date: 08/10/2009
Revision:

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SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT ROUTES

Data set
Paths and Rights of Way
Sustrans Routes
Long distance and regional routes
Green track network
Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan

3.72. The Borough is crossed by an extensive network of paths and rights of way (shown with Open Spaces on **Figure 3.7**), most densely concentrated within the two principal urban areas – Nuneaton and Bedworth. This network links to the long distance route network (Centenary Way) to the south of Bedworth, and to Hawkesbury and the Coventry urban fringe. Footpaths are most sparsely distributed in the eastern part of the borough, where a larger scale and less intact landscape and field boundary pattern is evident, and to the west (Arbury Estate).

3.73. In addition to the network of paths and rights of way, there is an extensive urban cycleway network within Nuneaton. This includes part of the SUSTRANS Network on the disused Nuneaton-Ashby railway line. At the local level, a number of shared use cycle routes have been identified within Nuneaton, by Warwickshire County Council. These include a radial route within the town centre and along the Wem Brook Trail and a permissive route at Whittleford Park, in addition to the canal towpath (consent required for cycling from British Waterways).

3.74. Two long distance walking routes cross the Borough and link it to the wider Arden landscape to the east, and to Coventry to the south. These are the Centenary Way and the Coventry Way.

3.75. The Centenary Way partly follows the route of the Wem Brook and the Coventry Canal within the Borough. It follows a north-south route through Warwickshire, including tranquil, low-lying countryside, country parks and the canal network, and key towns such as Kenilworth, Warwick, Leamington Spa and Shipston on Stour. The route is linked at both ends with the Heart of England Way. It was dedicated in 1991, and is widely accessible from the public transport network (including at Bedworth)[32].

3.76. The Coventry Way is a 64km mile radial route around the City of Coventry, encompassing the urban-rural fringe and outlying countryside. The route has a dedicated website, noting access difficulties and ongoing improvements[33].

3.77. Weddington Country Walk forms part of the extensive peri urban 'Green Track' network within the Borough, laid out on part of the disused rail network around Nuneaton.

[32] http://www.ramblers.org.uk/info/paths/name/c/centenarywarwickshire.htm
[33] http://www.acoventryway.org.uk/

Key GI issues

3.78. The **Warwickshire Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan**[34] (ROWIP) identifies the following relevant issues:

- Lack of public transport links to the network outside urban areas;
- Need for additional safe accessible trails beyond Country Park sites;
- Variable physical accessibility for the mobility impaired;
- Signage or lack of/variable quality can create a perceived barrier to accessibility;
- Perceived lack of incentive to use routes for exercise/health;
- PROW network is often severed by roads and later development – poorly connected.

Other points to inform the GI Plan

3.79. Promote walking and cycling by creating networks between amenities, residential and employment areas; providing links between smaller settlements and centres and development of greenways and quiet roads; making the most effective use of canal towpaths; ensure that new developments and infrastructure proposals improve walking and cycling access.

ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE

Data set
Local and borough parks
Definitive Rights of Way and Improvement Plans
Access Land including Registered Common Land
Publicly accessible spaces identified within the Local Authority Open Space Assessment including parks, play and sports facilities
Doorstep Greens and Millennium Greens
Green space / Open space Audit
Green corridors

PPG17 Open Spaces within the Borough

3.80. An Open Space Assessment was produced for the Borough by Jones Plus Ltd in January 2007[35]. This developed the qualitative open space audit undertaken in 2005 (which devised a comprehensive PPG17 compliant open space typology), and through consultation, set recommended greenspace provision standards in respect of quality, quantity and accessibility.

3.81. A number of larger urban parks ('premier Borough parks') within the Borough have been accorded significant local importance. Some of these have notable

[34] Warwickshire County Council 2006 **Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016**
[35] Jones Plus Ltd, 2007 Op Cit

cultural/philanthropic associations, having been gifted to local communities, such as Miners Welfare Park within Bedworth, and Riversley Park, Nuneaton.

3.82. Existing provision within the typologies, and the proportion of that which is accessible, is set out in the table below:

Table 3.2: Level of accessible greenspace provision

Typology	Total provision (area in ha)	Accessible (area in ha)
Parks and gardens	**63 (0.5321ha/1000 population)**	**63**
Natural and semi natural greenspace	**523 (4.394 ha/1000 population)**	**162 (1.360 ha/1000 population)**
Green corridors	**64 (0.537ha /1000 population)**	**42 (0.357 ha/1000 population)**
Outdoor sports	**302 (2.536ha/1000 population)**	**191 (1.607ha/1000 population)**
Amenity greenspace	**110 (0.925 ha/1000 population)**	**110**
Provision for children and young people/play	**3.918 (0.032 ha/1000 population)**	**3.918**
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	**36 (0.306 ha/1000 population)**	**36**
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	**16.56 (01.39 ha/1000 population)**	**16.56**

3.83. The Open Space Assessment considered the quality and nature of existing open spaces in terms of the criteria listed in the PPG17 companion guide (Annex B)[36]. In addition the following criteria were considered, before defining qualitative standards:

- Fencing;
- Play areas;
- Security;
- Signage;
- Compliance with Disability Discrimination Act.

[36] http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147477.pdf

3.84. Value of open space was considered separately, based on the following:

- Context – accessibility, and proximity to other existing open space provision, as this may affect value;
- Level and type of use;
- Wider benefits offered– e.g. social/community, and wider environmental benefit in terms of landscape and biodiversity.

3.85. Accessibility was mapped by applying distance thresholds based on walking speed (80 metres/minute, based on research undertaken by CABE[37] multiplied with effective catchment, or the distance consultees were prepared to travel to open space sites). Actual and straight line distances were considered, as per the Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association) Six Acre Standard. The same process was used for driving distances to more strategic open space sites.

Accessibility standards were defined as follows within the Open Space Assessment:

Table 3.3: Open Space: Accessibility Standards

Open space typology	Recommended provision standard
Parks and gardens	**For neighbourhood parks: 10 minute walk (480m catchment);** **For premier Borough parks: 10 minute drive (2257 metre catchment)**
Natural and semi natural greenspace	**For Local Nature Reserves: 15 minute drive (3385 metre catchment);** **For localised provision: 15 minute walk (840 metres)**
Green corridors	**10 minute walk (480m catchment)**
Outdoor sports	**For premier sporting facilities: 15 minute drive (3385 metre catchment);** **For localised provision: 10 minute walk (480 metres)**
Amenity greenspace	**7 minute walk (336m catchment)**
Provision for children and young people/play	**10 minute walk (300m catchment)**
Allotments, community gardens	**10 minute walk (480m catchment)**

[37] CABE 2001 **By Design: Better Places to Live – Planning Guide to PPG3**

Open space typology	Recommended provision standard
and urban farms	
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	**15 minute drive (3385m catchment)**

3.86. Recommended quantitative provision standards have been defined for the open space typologies as follows within the Open Space Assessment.

Table 3.4: Open Space: Quantitative Standards

Open space typology	Recommended provision standard
Parks and gardens	**0.6 ha per 1000 population**
Natural and semi natural greenspace	**2.0 ha per 1000 population**
Green corridors	**No quantitative standard set**
Outdoor sports	**1.6 ha per 1000 population**
Amenity greenspace	**0.9 ha per 1000 population**
Provision for children and young people/play	**0.9 ha per 1000 population (to include 0.03 ha equipped play per 1000)**
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	**0.3 ha per 1000 population**
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	**No quantitative standard set**

3.87. In addition, the Borough is currently developing a hierarchy for open space provision, as part of the Parks and Open Space Strategy. This encompasses:

- Walking distance open space;
- Destination parks;
- Community parks;
- Local parks;
- Incidental open space;
- Cemeteries;
- Allotments.

3.88. The proposed criteria for these types of spaces are shown at **Appendix 4**, together with examples of open spaces within these typologies, within the Borough.

Other open space provision within the Borough

3.89. Other strategic open space within and near the Borough includes Hartshill Hayes Country Park, 1km to the north of the Borough Boundary. This comprises some 55 hectares of woodland and open hilltop land, with wide views across the Anker Valley[38]. The park contains a variety of species rich woodlands, managed using traditional sylvicultural management (recipient of a Forestry Commission 'Centre of Excellence' award). It was opened by the County Council in 1978, with support from the then Countryside Commission. The park is fully accessible (open 9am-7pm, 7 days a week). Facilities include paid car parking, a visitor centre, gift shop and café, and public conveniences.

3.90. The next nearest strategic open space site is Coombe Abbey Country Park, near Coventry, and within 10km of the Borough. This comprises approximately 154 hectares of wooded parkland (part registered historic parkland and SSSI), which form the landscape setting to Coombe Abbey. Facilities include a visitor centre and public conveniences, a 'discovery centre' and café.

Key GI issues

PPG17 Open Spaces

3.91. Key issues noted in the PPG17 Assessment relate mainly to quality (and in some cases quantity) of existing provision. These are summarised briefly in relation to the individual typologies, in table 3.5 below.

Table 3.5: GI issues by open space typology

Typology	Key issues
Parks and gardens	**Generally adequate level of provision, although there are spatial inequalities across the Borough (e.g. lack of provision within Weddington and St Nicolas Wards). Two parks are especially valued at the Borough level (Riversley Park, Nuneaton and Miners Welfare Park, Bedworth). Many sites are of an appropriate quality although the variability of play provision limits certain sites in this respect (e.g. Stockingford Recreation Ground).**
Natural and semi natural	**Whilst public consultation within the Open Space**

[38] http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/7B32DB36085400E880256B7D004BF14E

Typology	Key issues
greenspace	**Assessment indicated that provision is adequate, there is in reality a quantitative shortfall. Camp Hill, Galley Common and Arbury Wards have the highest levels of provision, with distribution more scattered elsewhere. Quality varies widely, with basic street furniture such as benches and bins often lacking.**
Green corridors	**The Coventry Canal makes up over one third of provision within this category, within the Borough. Consequently provision is greatest in this 'central corridor' within the Borough, and more sporadic elsewhere, with a clear deficiency around Bulkington. In terms of quality, appropriate street furniture and signage are often lacking.**
Outdoor sports	**Even distribution across the Borough, and no deficiency. A high quality of provision is often evident in school facilities.**
Amenity greenspace	**Quantitative provision is generally good, with the exception of predominantly industrial areas such as Bermuda. Highest quality provision occurs at Abbey and Attleborough.**
Provision for children and young people/play	**Sporadic provision with clusters of often low quality and low value provision in close proximity. Many sites do not have appropriate 'dog proofing'.**
Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	**There is extensive allotment provision within Nuneaton. Many of these sites belong to the Nuneaton Allotment Federation and have plots**

Typology	Key issues
	available, whilst in Bedworth allotment provision is at capacity. There appears to be insufficient provision at Bulkington.
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	**Quality is generally good, in terms of grounds maintenance, accessibility and signage.**

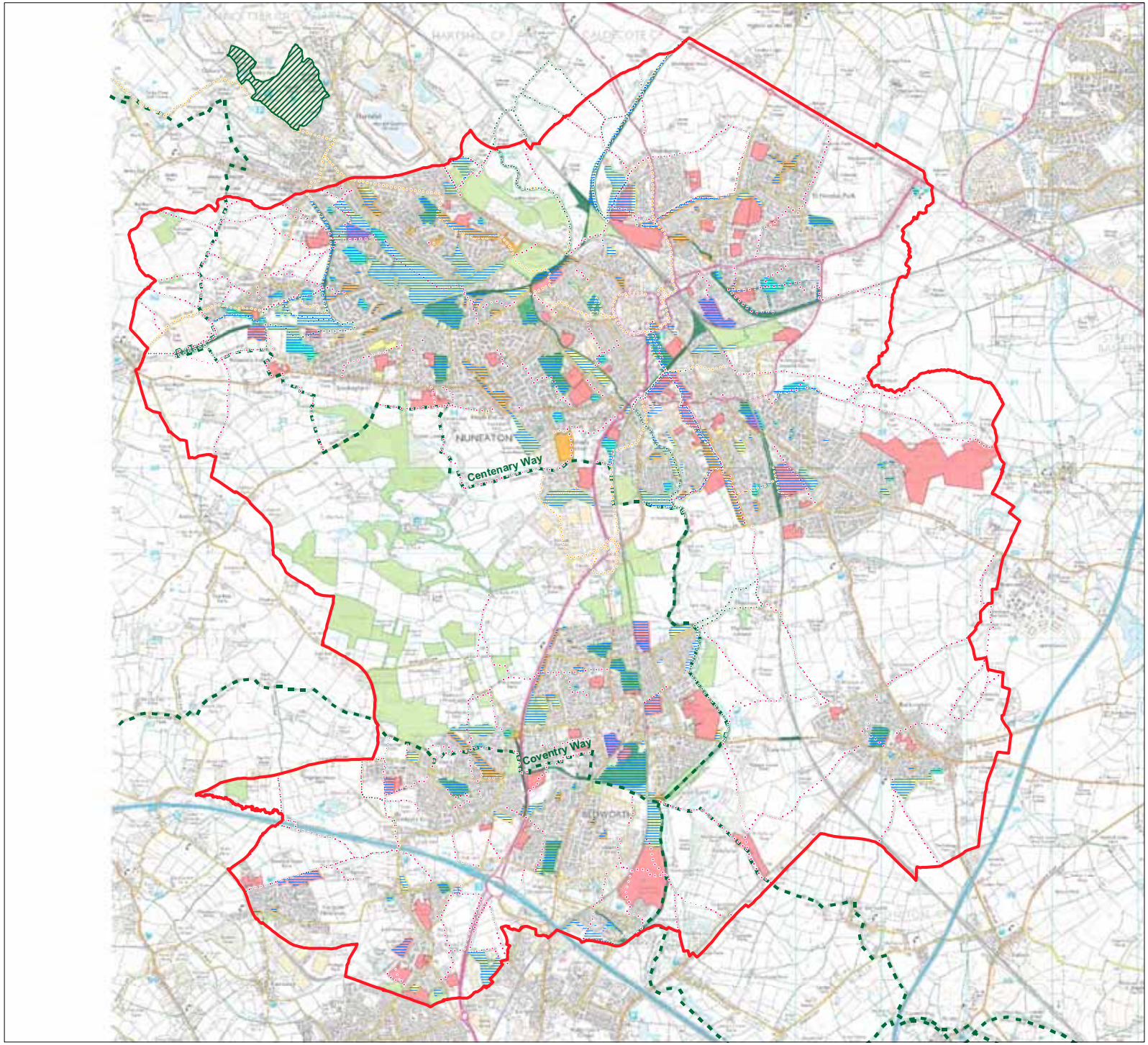
Other open space provision within the Borough

3.92. Applying data held on Country Parks to the ANGSt greenspace hierarchy suggests that there is a deficiency in this scale (County/District level) of green space provision to the eastern and western parts of the Borough. There may be the need to create new strategic greenspace to meet some of the recreational deficiency at Hartshill Hayes, or to provide a strategic site which is more accessible.

3.93. At the local level, the Parks and Open Space Strategy for the Borough identifies open space deficiencies to the north east of Nuneaton town, east of Bulkington and to the border with Coventry.

Other points to inform the GI Plan

- Promote the multifunctional nature of urban green space as an important environmental as well as social resource;
- Recognition of the importance of sport, both in its own right and as a tool to achieve core public goals (crime reduction, health, education and social inclusion);
- Promote active recreation using the natural resources in the Borough.



Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 3.7: Open Space Access and Links

Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Surrounding local authority boundaries
- Publicly accessible land

Nuneaton and Bedworth open space assessment

- Allotments, community gardens and urban farms
- Amenity greenspace
- Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds
- Green corridor
- Natural and semi-natural greenspace
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Provision for children and young people
- Footpaths
- Green tracks
- Cycle routes (existing or under development)

Other open space data

- Country park

N
W E
S

0 0.5 1 2 Km

Source: NBBC, Natural England, Forestry Commission

Date: 08/10/2009
Revision:

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HEALTH

Data set
Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

- As above, 5 LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived percentile (within the Kingswood, Barpool, Camp Hill, Abbey and Wem Brook Wards);
- A further 12 LSOAs fall within the 10-20% most deprived percentile. These are mainly distributed within Attleborough, Camp Hill, Wem Brook, Bede and Poplar Wards.

Key GI issues

3.94. These relate to enhanced access links to greenspace in areas of health deprivation, such as Camp Hill, and to provide an incentive to use such routes (destination greenspaces/attractors).

Other points to inform the GI Plan

- In order to help close the health inequalities gaps, improvements in health must be greatest for the most excluded groups and communities in society;
- Built environment factors (such as buildings, places, streets, routes and greenspaces) as well as natural environment factors such as air, water and natural habitats have a big influence on the health of the population. Green infrastructure can be a key tool in creating an environment that positively affects the population's health;
- Promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport and encourage new developments to incorporate open spaces to encourage recreation, play and promote active travel.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT BY FUNCTION AND LOCALITY

3.95. Using the information gathered above, capturing the environmental and socio-economic characteristics of the Borough, and with reference to Natural England's recent Green Infrastructure Guidance a set of 5 functions have been identified for green infrastructure in the Borough. These functions are set out in Table 3.6, which also states their relationship to the environmental and social themes described above. The functions are also expressed spatially on **Figure 3.8**.

Table 3.6: Green infrastructure functions in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

Functions		Environmental & Socio-economic themes	Data included in environmental & socio economic themes
Habitat provision and access to nature	To provide wildlife habitats	Biodiversity	SACs SSSIs LNRs SINCs pSINCs UK BAP Priority Habitats
	To provide opportunities to access nature		
Sustainable resource management & climate change adaptation	To provide sustainable water resource management	Water resources	Water abstraction
	To alleviate flood risk	Flooding	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 3a
	To allow adaptation to climate change	Climate Change	
Productive landscapes	To provide food	Food	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms farmland
	To provide fuel	Fuel	Farmland
Landscape setting and context (including the historic environment)	To provide landscape setting, and to conserve and enhance landscape and cultural heritage/historic landscape assets.	Landscape	National Character Areas Canal network
		Cultural Heritage	Historic Parks and Gardens SAMs
	To provide a high quality environment in which to live and work.	Standard of Living	Living environment Crime Income Education
Access, recreation and movement	To provide sustainable transport/access routes	Sustainable Transport routes	PROWs Sustrans routes Long distance paths Green tracks Canal network
	To provide recreational opportunities	Accessible Greenspace	Accessible Greenspace

Functions		Environmental & Socio-economic themes	Data included in environmental & socio economic themes
		Health	(Outdoor Sports Facilities) Health IMD

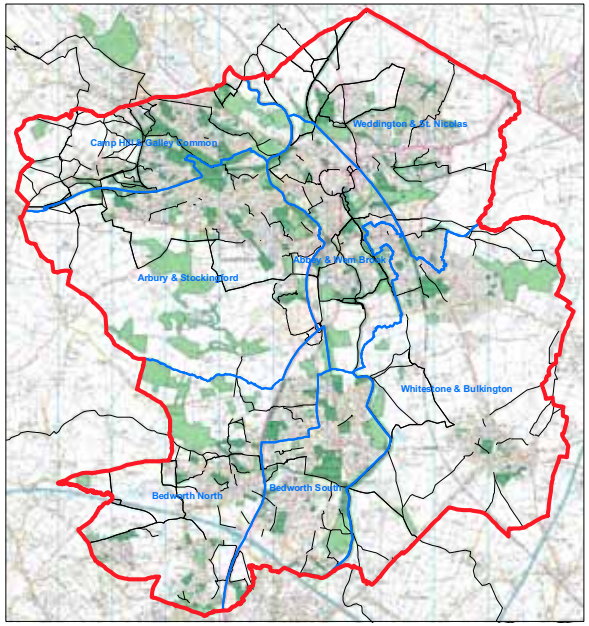
3.96. The assessment of opportunities in relation to functions is split into two parts under each function – 1) high level opportunities, where relevant, in relation the functions below, supported by 2) more detailed opportunity analysis in relation to specific locality areas.

3.97. There are no clear standards in terms of provision of green infrastructure to perform various functions, such as alleviating flood risk and mitigating climate change. We have therefore undertaken a high level assessment of current functional deficits and potential future functional needs of each of the seven locality areas in the Borough. We have taken into account both accessible and non-accessible land.

3.98. To enable us to more effectively highlight where potential future functional needs might arise we have looked at the impact on each of the functions if (the majority of) development were to take place within each of the seven Locality Areas defined by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. This will help inform the development of Core Strategy Options, in terms of where development would have the most significant impact on different green infrastructure functions. Within this section a series of high level messages are also set out in relation to the functions, and these opportunities are developed further in the next chapter.

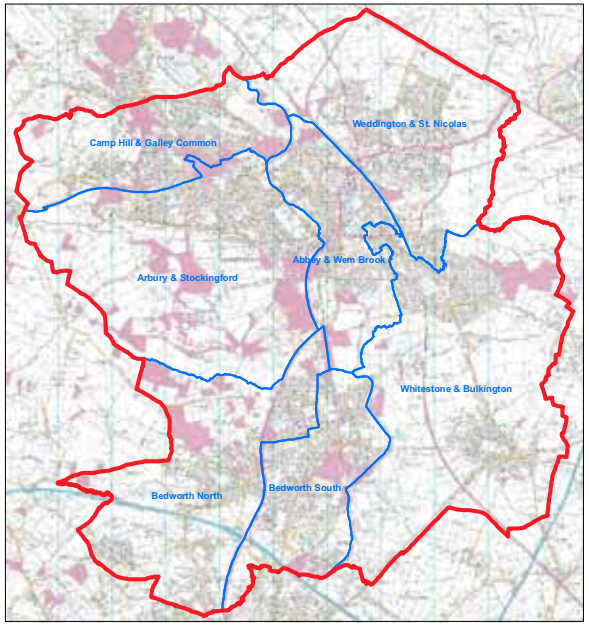
Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 3.8: Green Infrastructure Functions



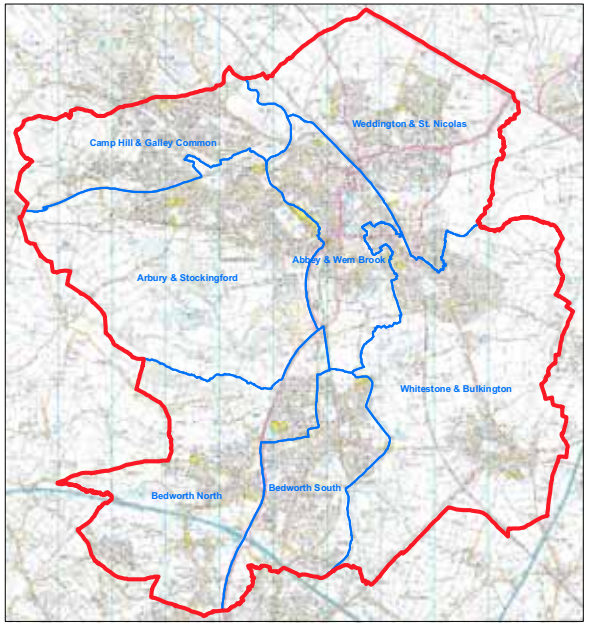
Access, Recreation and Movement

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Locality areas
- Access links
- Publicly accessible land
- Open space sites



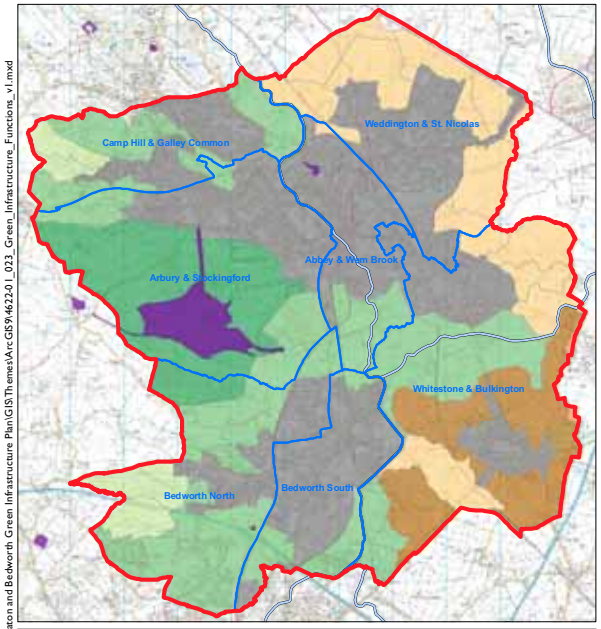
Habitat Provision and Access to Nature

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Locality areas
- Habitat provision



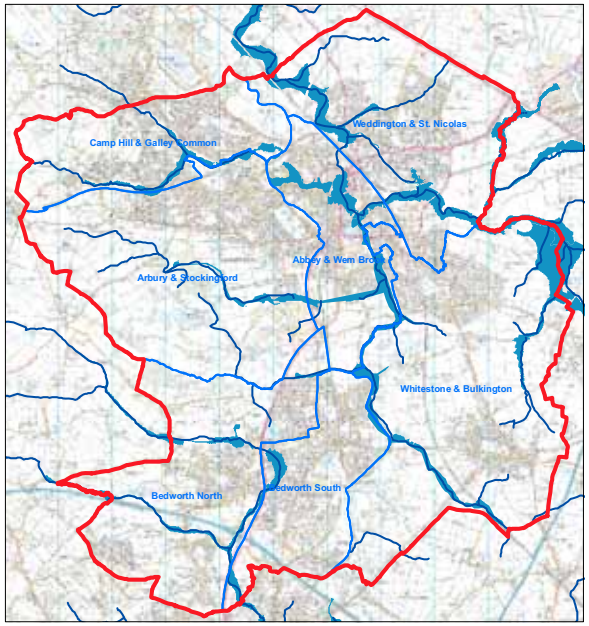
Productive Landscapes

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Locality areas
- Allotments, community gardens and urban farms



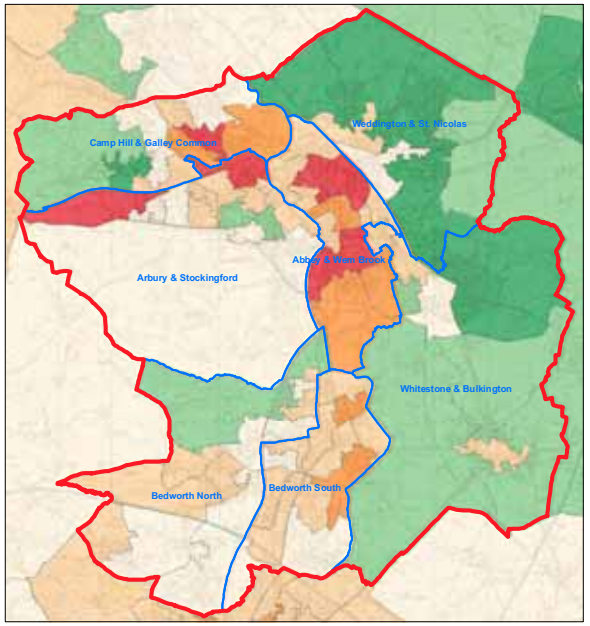
Landscape Setting and Context

- Canals
- Cultural heritage
- Urban
- Arden, Ancient Arden
- Arden, Industrial Arden
- Arden, Arden Parklands
- High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau
- High Cross Plateau, Village Farmlands
- Mease Lowlands, Estate Farmlands



Sust Resource Management & Climate Change Adaptation

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Locality areas
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment zone 3a
- Rivers



Socio-Economic and Deprivation

- 0 - 10 (Most deprived)
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 40
- 40 - 60
- 60 - 80
- 80 - 100 (Least deprived)

0 1 2 Km

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HABITAT PROVISION AND ACCESS TO NATURE

High level opportunities

- Large nature conservation sites provide opportunities for recreation and access to nature including natural play. For example, opportunities may exist around the Marston Junction which sits at a strategic point between the Ashby De La Zouche Canal, Coventry Canal and Wem Brook. In addition, the River Anker/Sketchley Brook corridor and the River Sowe valley;

- Canal and river corridors provide opportunities for habitat creation/restoration, promote species movement and act as transport and recreation corridors;

- Restoration and regeneration of new habitat promotes adaptation to climate change;

- Wildlife rich landscapes strengthen 'sense of place' and complement heritage conservation;

- An overarching GI opportunity should be to develop an **ecological network** for Nuneaton and Bedworth. This should identify the following:

a) *Core areas*: the most important habitats containing populations of the rarest or most vulnerable species. For example, SSSIs, SINCs and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). These areas should be strictly protected by legal and policy mechanisms and surrounded (where possible) by non-damaging land uses (buffering). New large wildlife sites (core areas) could also be created, providing alternative recreational spaces, reducing visitor pressure issues with existing sites.

b) *Enhancement areas*: land which is of moderate or low ecological value but which could benefit from enhancement measures. Examples include restoration of defunct hedgerows, reinstatement of pollarding in wood pastures and cessation of cultivation up to the edges of water courses to allow riparian vegetation and wetlands to establish;

c) *Areas for restoration*: areas of land which are of currently low ecological value but hold potential for habitat creation. Examples in the Borough include former quarries, areas of improved pasture and canalised rivers and streams;

d) *Wildlife corridors*: linear habitats which promote species dispersal. In the Borough there are numerous canal, disused railway and river corridors which could be managed as linear woodlands to support species dispersal.

3.99. Supporting information in relation to opportunities under these themes is set out at **Appendix 3.**

Opportunities by locality area

Camphill and Galley Common

3.100. Camphill and Galley Common currently has a high number of Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SINCs) with large sites at Bar Pool Valley/Ashwood Road and Galley Common Nature Reserve. There are also significant pSINCs at Midland

and Tuttle Hill Quarries. This locality area will also benefit from significant areas of pSINCs just over the Borough boundary to the north in Hartshill. If future housing development was located in this area it has the potential to put additional pressure on these SINCs and pSINCs, and increase fragmentation and reduce connectivity between the sites. Therefore, any new development in the area should incorporate features such as wildlife corridors between these sites and other measures that actively allow the movement of wildlife and replace lost habitat such as the planting of native tree species alongside roads and the encouragement of wildlife friendly gardens. Changes to management of existing sites should be considered to provide an enhanced and extended range of habitats e.g. to Whittleford Park and Bar Pool Valley, to expand the range of wetland habitats.

Arbury and Stockingford

3.101. Arbury and Stockingford has some of the best habitat provision in the neighbourhood with single sites that cover significant areas such as Arbury Hall and Seeswood Pool SINC and Bermuda Lake pSINC, and the substantial cluster of pSINCs around Arbury Estate that provide excellent wildlife corridors and opportunities to improve linkage of sites. However little of the habitat within this locality area is accessible, and there may be a need for new accessible habitat creation. The locality area also contains the Borough's only SAC, Ensors Pool which is also designated as a SSSI. Any new development in the Borough could potentially have a significant adverse effect on Ensor's Pool in particular but also threaten the other habitat provision in the locality area and increase fragmentation of sites. There is therefore a need for a buffer zone to protect this site and its qualifying habitats and species. A significant proportion of habitat provision in the locality area is inaccessible (largely due to Arbury Estate) so any new development should focus on the provision of access to nature sites and enhanced linkages between them.

Bedworth North and West

3.102. The northern part of the Bedworth North and West locality area is well served by habitat sites, although only a few of them such as The Nook are accessible by the public. The central and southern areas of the locality area have particularly poor habitat provision, especially accessible sites. Rowleys Green Open Space which is a pSINC, is accessible to the public but is cut off from the rest of the locality area by the M6 and the A444 dual carriageway. There is significant potential for locating new development in this locality area, so it would need to be accompanied by new sites for habitat provision and that were accessible to the public in the central and southern part of the locality area, to ensure that this function does not experience an increased deficit.

Bede and Poplar

3.103. Bede and Poplar has fairly good coverage of accessible habitat provision, with large SINCs and pSINCs at Devoran Close, Bedworth Balancing Lane and Sutton Stop. If new development was located in this locality area, habitat provision would benefit from the creation of wildlife corridors which would help reduce the isolation of these existing sites and benefit climate change adaptation. A key aim should be to link wetland habitats or enhance existing physical connections between them.

Abbey and Wem Brook

3.104. There are some significant sites of high quality to the north and south of the existing development in Abbey and Wem Brook including Griff Hill Quarry SSSI and Griff Hollows SINC and Harry Cleaver Trust Sports Land pSINC. However, only Griff Hollows is accessible to the public. These sites may well also be put under pressure if any new development is allowed in the locality area. Given the constrained town centre nature of the locality area, efforts should be made to increase habitat provision and access to nature through small scale sites and linear corridors through the centre and innovative measures such as ensuring that town centre parks are wildlife friendly. This could be realised through reduced intensity of landscape management regimes and urban greening proposals (street trees, green roof systems for new infill developments).

Weddington and St Nicolas

3.105. The locality area of Weddington and St Nicolas only has a couple of large biodiversity sites (the River Anker Grasslands SINC and Weddington Meadows SINC). However, the River Anker and the Nuneaton and Ashby disused railway line provide important wildlife corridors. The locality area has the poorest biodiversity function in terms of green infrastructure in the Borough. Any future development in this locality area should seek to enhance biodiversity and the current (and proposed) wildlife corridors in the locality area improving connectivity to other sites in neighbouring areas.

Whitestone and Bulkington

3.106. This locality area on the east side of the borough similarly has poor biodiversity functionality. Nuneaton Golf Club is a pSINC and would provide a significant area for biodiversity. Teddy Kem's Heaven railway embankment is also a pSINC and will provide a significant corridor through the locality area. The importance of this wildlife corridor may increase in importance if new development is located in the locality area, especially as there is a large amount of undeveloped land in the locality area. Any new development should seek to create new wildlife habitats and increase the biodiversity function of this locality area.

Key GI messages

- Effort needs to be made on the east side of the Borough (Weddington and St Nicolas and Whitestone and Bulkington) to improve habitat provision and access to it. This will especially be the case if new development is located in these locality areas otherwise significant deficiencies may occur;

- If new development is located in Bedworth North and West significant accessible habitat provision, or enhanced links between existing sites, will be needed to avoid a deficiency in this function;

- Although Arbury and Stockingford has good provision little of it is accessible, therefore limiting opportunities to access nature in the Borough;

- The more constrained locality areas like Abbey and Wem Brook and Camphill and Galley Common could benefit from increased wildlife corridors and a change

in the management of open spaces that currently have no biodiversity function in order to increase provision in these locality areas.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

High level opportunities

- Protection of greenfield functional flood plain (e.g. in the Anker and Sowe valleys, and in floodplain areas to the east of Nuneaton) as part of the semi natural greenspace network, seeking opportunities for associated wetland biodiversity enhancement;

- This should extend to creating new and expanded areas of linked water/wetlands (permanently and seasonally wet) to provide areas of flood storage in light of climate change, supported by appropriate management plans which balance biodiversity and operational objectives;

- Reinstatement of areas of functional floodplain which have been/are being developed (e.g. the Bus Station site). Development proposals through which these are delivered should seek to include breaking out rivers in culverts and restoration of more 'naturalistic' edge profiles;

- Opportunities should also be sought to make space for water and flood storage, and to accommodate climate change adaptation, with space specifically set aside for SuDS (to provide 1 in 100 attenuation) and used to inform the overall site layout, in new developments, or retrofitted as part of watercourse enhancements within the urban area (Attleborough or Riversley Park);

- Expansion and upgrading of existing flood storage facilities in light of future growth, with creation of new flood storage facilities in step with phasing of future developments (capacity determined through detailed modelling and site investigation for specific developments);

- SuDS should be designed as an integral part of development proposals to fulfil a range of other functions e.g. turf roofs to catch run off and to provide urban cooling, permeable paving or grass swales/vegetated filter strips integrated within the streetscape to create wildlife corridors, in addition to balancing ponds which can fulfil amenity and biodiversity functions through appropriate profiling, design and management;

- Subject to more detailed Flood Risk Assessment, the canal network in Nuneaton and Bedworth may provide a valuable temporary flood storage and transfer function;

- Within the wider landscape, an opportunity may be provided through Higher Level Stewardship schemes to control surface water runoff e.g. ditched field boundaries, grassland and vegetated margins to field boundaries.

Opportunities by locality area

Camphill and Galley Common

3.107. There are significant corridors of land in Camphill and Galley Common that are classified as being in Strategic Flood Risk Zone 3a. Whilst much of the flood zone is over open space such as Midland Quarry there is a section through Whittleford which affects current development. Therefore this deficiency at Whittleford needs to be addressed. Open space which overlaps the flood risk zone needs to be protected from any future development and managed in a way that increases the benefit of its water management function (such as implementation of wetland scrapes and changes of management – wetland/flood meadow etc, to allow greater flexibility/adaptability in times of flood). Any new development in this locality area (especially that which is close to the flood risk zones) should seek to not exacerbate the flood risk, by incorporating techniques such as SuDS.

Arbury and Stockingford

3.108. Arbury and Stockingford currently has little function in terms of flood risk management. A corridor between Bermuda business park and Bermuda residential area lies within Strategic Flood Risk Zone 3a. This area is largely built up, therefore opportunities to improve the flood storage capacity around this current development should be sought. The biggest opportunity may lie between the units on the business park as a large area of this is likely to be covered with impermeable surfaces presently. Any new development that was located to the east of Bermuda would need to ensure that development did not infringe on the flood risk zone or exacerbate the likelihood of flooding within it.

Bedworth North and West

3.109. There is a small amount of land in the locality area that counts as Strategic Flood Risk Zone 3a but this does not currently intersect with any other development or greenspace. Any future development would have to ensure that it avoided these areas and provided open space to help provide flood attenuation.

Bede and Poplar

3.110. Bede and Poplar has three significant areas that are covered by Strategic Flood Risk Zone 3a in the north east of the locality area covering Marston Lane Allotments, in the south east of the locality area below the M6 and in the west of the locality area covering Bedworth Rugby Club. These sites should be managed to enhance their water management functions (such as reducing impermeable surfaces) and if new development is located in the locality area new open spaces should be created to protect these flood risk areas and enhance their water management function.

Abbey and Wem Brook

3.111. Abbey and Wem Brook has the largest concentration of area that is covered by Strategic Flood Risk Zone 3a. Many parts of this flood risk area are covered by existing open space for example Riversely Park and the corridor of open space from Avenue Road Recreation Ground to Marston Lane fields. However there is a need for greater functional flood sites and this need will be increased if development

occurs in this locality area. This could be partly realised through more flexible approaches to landscape management to urban stretches of the River Anker.

Weddington and St Nicolas

3.112. There is a significant amount of the locality area especially in the west which is covered by Strategic Flood Risk Zone 3a which cover Sandon Park and Harry Cleaver Trust Sports land. These sites need to be protected from any development and more of this functional flood risk land protected to ensure that it can carry out its function to the full (as part of an expanded wetland greenspace network).

Whitestone and Bulkington

3.113. There are significant areas of Strategic Flood Risk Zone 3a around the edges of the locality area including an area to the east which partially covers the Nuneaton Golf Course. There is a deficit of open space that performs this flood risk management function and this should be taken into account when identifying new open spaces especially in light of new development (potential wetland green wedges, which could also contribute to an enhanced landscape setting).

Key GI messages

- Bede and Poplar and Whitestone and Bulkington have significant areas within the flood risk zone and would benefit from open space being designated around these floodrisk zones to help protect and appropriately manage them for this function;

- Abbey and Wem Brook and Camphill and Galley Common would benefit from the implementation of SuDS management techniques and more flexible management in relation to 'soft' landscape in the linear areas through existing development that are covered by the floodrisk zones and also to ensure any future development in these locality areas does not exacerbate any problems.

PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

Opportunities by locality area

Camphill and Galley Common

3.114. Camphill and Galley Common currently has the poorest functionality in the Borough in terms of productive landscapes with only one open space, Ryders Hill Allotments, producing food. These allotments may well come under pressure from development if this area is highlighted for growth. Efforts should be made to ensure that these allotments are protected and that further opportunities are sought for food production in the area. This may include growing food in less traditional ways such as communal areas between housing, on roof gardens/as part of green roofs, or within new community parklands etc. This would be especially beneficial for this locality area given the socio-economic challenges that it faces.

Arbury and Stockingford

3.115. Arbury and Stockingford has some of the most significant provision of allotments. Sites are mainly situated in the more urban north east of the locality area, but they are generally well distributed around this urban area. The sites are of a good size for this type of provision, the largest being Milford Street and Green Moor Road Allotments, Vernons Lane Allotments and Church Lane Allotments. If new development was to be focused in the locality area these allotments may come under threat so the utmost efforts should be made to protect them. If the existing urban area is extended then there may be a need for additional provision of productive landscapes as part of this new development as existing provision is largely on the north and eastern edges of the locality area and therefore will not be that accessible to new development.

Bedworth North and West

3.116. Bedworth North and West has fairly good provision of productive landscapes which is evenly spread throughout the locality area. Sites include Arbury Avenue, Bowling Green Lane, Smorall Lane and Wheelwright Lane. Any new development within the locality area may threaten the existing productive landscapes so efforts should be made to protect them. Because of the pattern of undeveloped land in the locality area any new development is likely to be located between the existing clusters of settlements and also between the existing provision of productive landscapes. Therefore, although access to the allotments may not be a problem, the capacity of these existing sites to provide for new development, may well be tested. Therefore efforts should be made to create additional provision.

Bede and Poplar

3.117. Bede and Poplar has a good distribution of productive landscapes, although given the density of the population the sites are very small and these sites are at capacity, so there is likely to be unmet demand. Therefore any new development in the area needs to help meet this demand, whether this is through traditional provision such as allotments or through more innovative means such as community productive gardens. This may be more suited to the locality area as this is one of the most densely developed parts of the Borough and available land may be in short supply.

Abbey and Wem Brook

3.118. Given that Abbey and Wem Brook locality area covers the centre of Nuneaton, which is densely populated, the provision and access to productive landscapes is reasonable. As well as several small sites within the locality area there are a number of other sites that border the locality area that residents have good access to. Any new development in the locality area is not likely to be on that large a scale but may increase densification of the existing settlement. Therefore innovative ways to increase access to the productive landscape will be important such as growing food in communal spaces between buildings and on wide grass verges.

Weddington and St Nicolas

3.119. Weddington and St Nicolas has fairly good, well spaced, provision of productive landscapes throughout the locality area, with several sites including Higham Land,

Weddington and Kelsey Lane Allotments. Due to the location of the railway lines the Kelsey Lane Allotments are poorly accessible from the rest of the locality area. Any new development in the locality area would need to include provision of productive landscapes to serve the new development, as an integral part of new community parklands delivered alongside development.

Whitestone and Bulkington

3.120. This locality area has a relatively poor provision of productive landscapes and there is a deficiency of allotment space in Bulkington. Bulkington Allotments are the only provision for Bulkington and because of its more isolated location there is less opportunity for residents to easily use other sites in the Borough. Aberdeen Road Allotments is the only site of any significant size serving Whitestone and this is located in the north west of the locality area. Increased and more accessible provision is needed in both parts of the locality area even if new development is not located in this part of the Borough. If any significant new development is located in any part of the locality area then a substantial amount of new provision will have to be provided.

Key GI messages

- Whitestone and Bulkington and Bede and Poplar and North need to increase the amount of provision of productive landscape sites to meet current need, if new development is located in these locality areas then this provision will have to be significantly increased;

- Camphill and Galley Common and Abbey and Wem locality areas may benefit from an increase in provision through more innovative methods, such as producing food on small scale communal areas of land between housing if new development is located in these locality areas, or on roof gardens if high density development, or as part of a wider parkland to address other deprivation issues at Camp Hill.

LANDSCAPE SETTING AND CONTEXT

High level opportunities

3.121. These are set out in relation to the national character areas below.

Arden

- Bringing woodlands and mature field/hedgerow oaks back into management to promote biodiversity and groundflora, and also to sustain tree cover in the longer term;

- Creation of oak based farm woodlands to link and create new habitat corridors, to restore aspects of landscape character and to provide resilience to climate change (microclimate creation, shading/cooling);

- Restoration of heathlands to field margins and roadsides to link/create corridors and make reference to former heathland landscape character, and also to former rail lines to relate peri urban greenways/corridors to their wider landscape;

- A key opportunity is to enhance existing river/wetland corridors, through managed re alignment and restoration of wetland landscape features/associated habitats (River Sowe, Wem Brook), and to provide climate change adapted landscapes;

- Use should be made of the few 'reference points' or way markers within the landscape, to enable the wider Arden landscape mosaic to be experienced (e.g. use of Mount Jud as potential recreational focus and landmark for an expanded Country Park to link to Hartshill Hayes and the adjacent Nature Reserve. Sites such as Mount Jud can also provide opportunities for interpretation and understanding of the physical landscape and geology of Arden);

- New landscape structure to development edges (hedgerows and trees) should conserve and reinforce the 'mottled', mosaic character of this settled landscape, and soften the urban-rural interface;

- Reinstatement of lost landscape structure to urban fringes e.g. at Griff;

- Consider the use of double hedgerows and new green lanes as multi functional movement corridors for new development (Landscape setting, habitat enhancement);

- Conservation and enhancement of the landscape setting of SAMs such as Astley Castle, with use made of associated opportunities of interpretation to make reference to site history and landscape context, and to form destination points or 'nodes' on the PROW network.

Leicestershire Vales

- Use opportunities to create softer, more transitional settlement edges, with use of native woodland for screening and to integrate settlement edges, as well as to link existing habitats and to provide a shading and cooling function;

- Wetlands and floodplains form a key component of this landscape (the confluence of three watercourses). There is the opportunity to link and expand this network to deliver a more resilient, climate change adapted landscape (e.g. around the River Anker and Sketchley Brook) and to reflect historic landscape character, as part of new strategic greenspaces, or as the landscape setting for development;

- River valleys and wetland corridors should also link to the established greenway network, e.g. the Weddington Way and opportunities for enhanced access to these floodplain corridors should be sought.

Mease and Sence Lowlands

- A key opportunity is to restore and link field boundaries to create an enhanced landscape setting in relation to development, as well as links to new and restored farm woodlands to reinstate landscape structure and deliver climate change adaptation potential;

- Also for enhanced access to the network of watercourses which cross the area, and for associated wetland restoration.

Opportunities by locality area

Camphill and Galley Common

3.122. Camphill and Galley Common has no designated sites of cultural heritage interest, but has one site of ancient and seminatural woodland at Thorneyfield Wood. This is quite poor in terms of provision compared to the rest of the Borough and efforts should be made to protect and enhance the landscape setting in the locality area especially if new development is proposed. An enhanced landscape setting could be realised through changes to management regimes at Whittleford Park and Bar Pool Valley.

Arbury and Stockingford

3.123. Arbury and Stockingford has the most significant provision of Cultural Heritage and Landscape designations in the Borough. The most significant site is Arbury Hall and Park which contains a significant cluster of listed buildings, with the parkland landscape being grade ii* listed. There are also a significant number of listed buildings outside the estate and also ancient and semi-natural woodlands and ancient replanted woodland. However, the majority of these sites are not accessible to the public. New development in this locality area could have an adverse impact on these sites and the landscape setting of the locality area and any new development should be sensitive in its design to this landscape setting, and where possible seek to increase public access to these sites.

Bedworth North and West

3.124. Bedworth North and West has a number of listed buildings within as well as Many Lands Wood (ancient semi-natural woodland, although not publicly accessible). There is also a scheduled monument at Exhall Hall. The majority of the locality area like the rest of the west side of the Borough is covered by the Arden National Character Area, which is an attractive and gently rolling, well wooded farmland landscape of historic character and notable cultural associations. New development in this locality area may threaten this landscape and therefore any new development needs to be sensitive to its landscape in both setting and design.

Bede and Poplar

3.125. Bede and Poplar is largely urban in character, but it does contain a cluster of listed buildings and Bedworth Cemetery which is a Historic Park and Garden and is also publicly accessible. New development is unlikely to have a significant impact on landscape in this locality area.

Abbey and Wem Brook

3.126. The centre of Nuneaton town contains a number of listed buildings and also a Scheduled monument, the Benedictine Priory and Precinct of St Mary, Nuneaton. It is uncertain what impact any future development may have. If infill and development intensification were to occur the settings of these sites should be conserved.

Weddington and St Nicolas

3.127. Weddington and St Nicolas locality area have no designated cultural heritage features. Efforts should be made to enhance and restore the landscape and landscape structure (early Enclosure landscape) and also as a basis for movement and wildlife corridors in the locality area, especially if new development is proposed here, in order to ensure a high quality environment that will attract people to live and work in the locality area.

Whitestone and Bulkington

3.128. Similarly Whitestone and Bulkington have little cultural heritage and landscape interest although there are several listed buildings around Bulkington. Effort should be made to enhance the landscape in the locality area especially if new development is proposed here in order to ensure a high quality environment that will attract people to live and work in the locality area.

Key GI messages

- The east side of the Borough (Weddington and St Nicolas and Whitestone and Bulkington) have the least interest in terms of cultural heritage and landscape and therefore efforts need to be made to enhance, restore and manage the landscape in this locality area, as part of the GI proposals;

- Arbury and Stockingford has a high quality landscape and cultural interest however much of it is not accessible to the public. A key opportunity may be to enhance access, to 'bring the landscape in'.

ACCESS, RECREATION AND MOVEMENT

High level opportunities

- Enhanced and safe green transport links (for a variety of users – pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders) between attractively designed and well managed greenspace sites, to provide an 'incentive' for their use and to assist in easing deprivation;

- Creation of a route hierarchy to link new urban greenways clearly to longer distance routes to facilitate access to the wider landscape (e.g. the Arden landscape and the river valley network) - a potential 'walk to health' initiative;

- Creation of new radial routes from railway stations, to connect to the longer distance network e.g. to the Coventry Way. This could take the form of a new peri urban, shared use greenway/radial route, linked to Nuneaton town centre by the river corridors which converge on the centre;

- This could link to creation of a hierarchy of variable distance radial 'health routes', designed with equal access considerations and shared use in mind;

- Coordinated and improved signage to relate to local character and specific identities/special characteristics of locality areas through which routes pass, or themed in relation to specific, historically significant spaces on the route (e.g.

Miners Welfare Park). This would create a sense of place, and also potential incentive/focus for use of such routes – 'destination points';

- There may be the potential to expand the green track network along other disused railway lines e.g. near to the A47 and adjacent to the flood channel;
- Creation of enhanced links between parks such as Miners Welfare Park and Bedworth Town Centre may be a key opportunity;
- In peri urban/rural areas, there may be the opportunity to address footpath severance through access provisions within Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) schemes;
- Ensure that provision is made for the widest possible variety of social and cultural groups and their needs within the green infrastructure network – natural play (green infrastructure as outdoor classroom, and to facilitate opportunities for healthy living/access to nature), and dedicated recreational facilities for young teenage/adolescent groups;
- Changing management regimes to areas of amenity greenspace to enhance urban biodiversity and offer a wider range of environmental functions than at present (also climate change adaptation potential). This could also be applied to open spaces in the river and stream corridors, to create a greater range of habitats and more of a 'sense of place';
- Enhanced management should also be directed towards achieving 'Green Flag' award criteria – a nationally recognised quality 'benchmark';
- Future management should consider community and voluntary involvement, e.g. 'Friends of' groups;
- Investigate enhancement of links and accessibility/legibility in urban areas where in close proximity to valued open spaces, such as Miners Welfare Park;
- Consider new allotment and community garden provision as an integral part of new community greenspace associated with future urban extensions;
- Make greater use of post industrial corridors such as disused railway lines, to create additional green corridors/green tracks (shared use) and enhanced network connections;
- Consider enhanced signage and co ordinated street furniture provision to create a sense of local identity for spaces within defined locality areas – to 'tell a story', or illustrate themes which respond to the heritage of locality areas (this would also meet 'place-making' aspirations within CABE Space's open space guidance[39]);
- There is the potential to concentrate play provision into larger more strategic sites, which can be managed more effectively and which relate to the needs of a more diverse range of users/ages, including young teenage groups. There is also

[39] Mayor of London/CABE Space 2009 **Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance** ISBN 978-1-84633-022-3

the opportunity to better relate these to the place and local identity through natural play and environmental art;

- Creation of new semi natural greenspace should form an integral part of the landscape setting of future development, as well as to address the sporadic level of provision and linked to existing as part of an expanded green track and green way network;

- Use of income generating opportunities to the fringes of the Arbury Estate (e.g. a controlled amount of development), where this respects the historic integrity of the estate, its setting and the reasons for its designation. This could create improved access to parts of the parkland landscape, greater awareness/appreciation and a positive western gateway to Nuneaton.

Opportunities by locality area

Camphill and Galley Common

3.129. Camphill and Galley Common has good accessibility to open space and a high density of footpaths, cycleways and greenways. Improvements could be made to the accessibility of these routes to Nuneaton town centre and this should be considered if new development is located in the locality area. The Whittleford Park and Bar Pool Valley is a key corridor in this respect.

Arbury and Stockingford

3.130. The urban parts in the north of the locality area have good recreation provision. Although there is some provision of footpaths, cycleways and greenways in places they are disjointed and do not create easy links to the centre of Nuneaton and the southern part of the locality area also has poor provision. The locality area (and Borough) would benefit from improved accessibility and connectivity and any new development that is proposed for the area should try to increase walking and cycling routes that link in to the Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres and also increase accessible recreational opportunities around new developments.

Bedworth North and West

3.131. The built up parts of the locality area have good provision of accessible recreational facilities and footpaths. There is a deficiency of cycleways in the locality area and the M6 creates a significant physical barrier between the southern and northern parts of the locality area. This is something that should be taken in to consideration if new development is located in the locality area. Improved cycleways and footpaths that link into Bedworth town centre and other local amenity centres should also be required as part of any new development.

Bede and Poplar

3.132. Bede and Poplar has some of the best provision of recreational facilities in the Borough, and facilities are well distributed throughout the locality area. Although the locality area contains two long distance footpaths, Coventry Way and Centenary Way, the provision of footpaths and cycleways is one of the poorest in the Borough as a whole. Efforts should be made to increase provision especially to Bedworth

town centre and other local amenities and if new development is located in the locality area this provision will have to be significantly increased.

Abbey and Wem Brook

3.133. The northern, more densely populated part of the locality area has good provision of recreation sites and footpaths and cycleways. Any new development in the south of the locality area would need to ensure that it was linked into the centre by a network of walking and cycling routes to ensure a deficiency in provision does not occur.

Weddington and St Nicolas

3.134. Weddington and St Nicolas currently has adequate provision of recreational facilities and has a good coverage of outdoor recreation facilities. There is also good coverage of walking and cycling paths that radiate inwards towards Nuneaton town centre providing good accessibility. If new development was proposed in the locality area access routes would need to be extended to both Nuneaton and also radiating outwards to nearby towns such as Hinckley.

Whitestone and Bulkington

3.135. Nuneaton Golf Club provides a significant percentage of the recreational provision in the locality area although it is not accessible to the public. Other significant accessible sites include Pauls Land Recreation Ground and Barnacle Lane Open Space. There is good provision of footpaths radiating out from Bulkington in the south of the locality area but provision is less good around Whitestone and there is a deficiency in cycleways and greenways. There would need to be an increase in accessible recreational space and walking and cycling routes if any new development occurred in this locality area. The creation of new strategic greenspace on environmentally constrained (floodplain) land to the east of Nuneaton may be able to assist in this respect – a positive gateway to the east of the town, which could also deliver landscape and biodiversity enhancements.

Key GI messages

- Bedworth North and West and Bede and Poplar currently have deficiencies in cycleways and if new development were to occur in these locality areas accessible recreational provision and sustainable travel routes will need to be increased;

- If new development is proposed in Arbury and Stockingford and Whitestone and Bulkington significant new recreational provision will be needed along with new walking and cycling routes linking into both Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres.

4. PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

4.1. This section sets out the development of the proposed green infrastructure network for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, and describes the green infrastructure zones and component strategic green infrastructure projects or spatial interventions.

DEVELOPING THE NETWORK

4.2. Three spatial themes were explored for planning green infrastructure in the Borough. These focussed respectively on i) landscape and biodiversity, ii) climate change adaptation and iii) community and socio economic.

4.3. Below are shown the three spatial themes for green infrastructure within the Borough, which responded to the opportunities identified in Chapter 3 and which were tested through field survey to develop a multifunctional green infrastructure network, shown at the end of this section, and which was refined through stakeholder consultation.

Landscape and biodiversity

Key messages:
Place and landscape as the integrator – the starting point for planning for multifunctionality
This was proposed through creation of a series of landscape enhancement, conservation and restoration zones. These were notably in relation to the Forest of Arden (sustaining and securing the long term future of this diverse landscape), post industrial landscapes (opportunities to interpret, understand and enjoy these safely as part of new accessible semi natural greenspace), and the distinctive network of rivers and tributary watercourses which cross landscape and townscape (landscape restoration and enhancement, providing for habitats, access to nature and recreation).

Climate change adaptation

Key messages:
Ensuring the resilience of the environment in the face of climate change, and providing opportunities for responsible travel choices
This was proposed through consideration of a wider range of functions that could be offered by land within the Borough. For example restored wetlands, which have the potential to provide new linked habitats as well as flood storage and water resource management. Within Arden, woodland restoration can increase the resilience and climate change adaptation potential of the landscape. A series of shared use radial and linked routes which link key tourist and recreational foci, provide opportunities for car free travel.

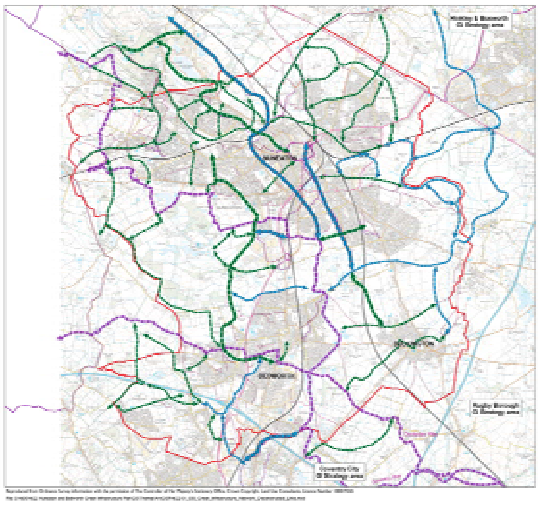
Community and socio economic

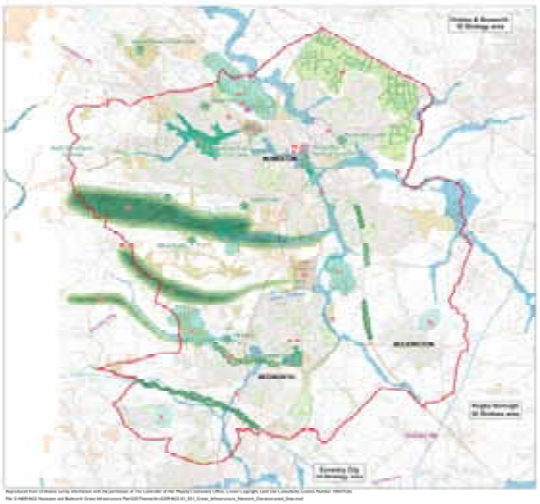
Key messages:
Providing accessible recreational and educational greenspace resources for every age and social group; restating communities' historic links to their landscapes
This was proposed through the potential for a series of different activity zones – community parkland as common ground, to address issues of social deprivation, and to increase links/permeability in neighbourhoods where this is an issue. Also consideration of the common ground in its wider sense – opportunities for local food production. Management and surveillance needs of open spaces was identified, to provided enhanced community perceptions in relation to safety.

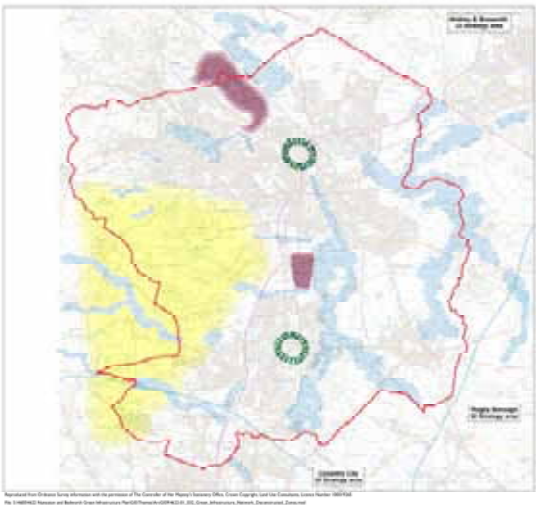
4.4. The three themes were brought together to develop an integrated network to address these green infrastructure themes and functions and this is shown at **Figure 4.1**.

4.5. The respective components of the proposed Green Infrastructure Network (access links, sites and zones) are shown in the series of 'deconstructed' diagrams below.

Components of the proposed green infrastructure network







Clockwise from top left:

- Links
- GI Assets (spaces) – existing and proposed
- Proposed GI Action Zones

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ZONES AND PROJECT PROPOSALS

4.6. A series of landscape zones have been devised as a framework for green infrastructure planning within the Borough. The zones respond to distinctive aspects of the landscape and environmental character of the Borough. Distinctive aspects of character include the ancient landscape of Arden, with its many literary and cultural associations, and the contrasting post industrial landscapes which form a significant part of the Borough's cultural and social identity. The confluence of rivers and canals in and around Nuneaton is another key aspect of the place and an understanding of it, in terms of settlement evolution and landscape setting. In defining zones, consideration has also been given to opportunities to enhance existing urban and peri urban character to deliver a wider range of functions and to increase its climate change adaptation potential through urban greening and improved landscape structure. The final key consideration has been links and connections, in terms of access and habitat, and in identifying potential for enhancement.

4.7. The component zones of the green infrastructure network, and supporting 'mini visions' are introduced below.

Forest of Arden landscape enhancement zone
Vision:
Conservation, wider accessibility and greater resilience for a diverse historic landscape

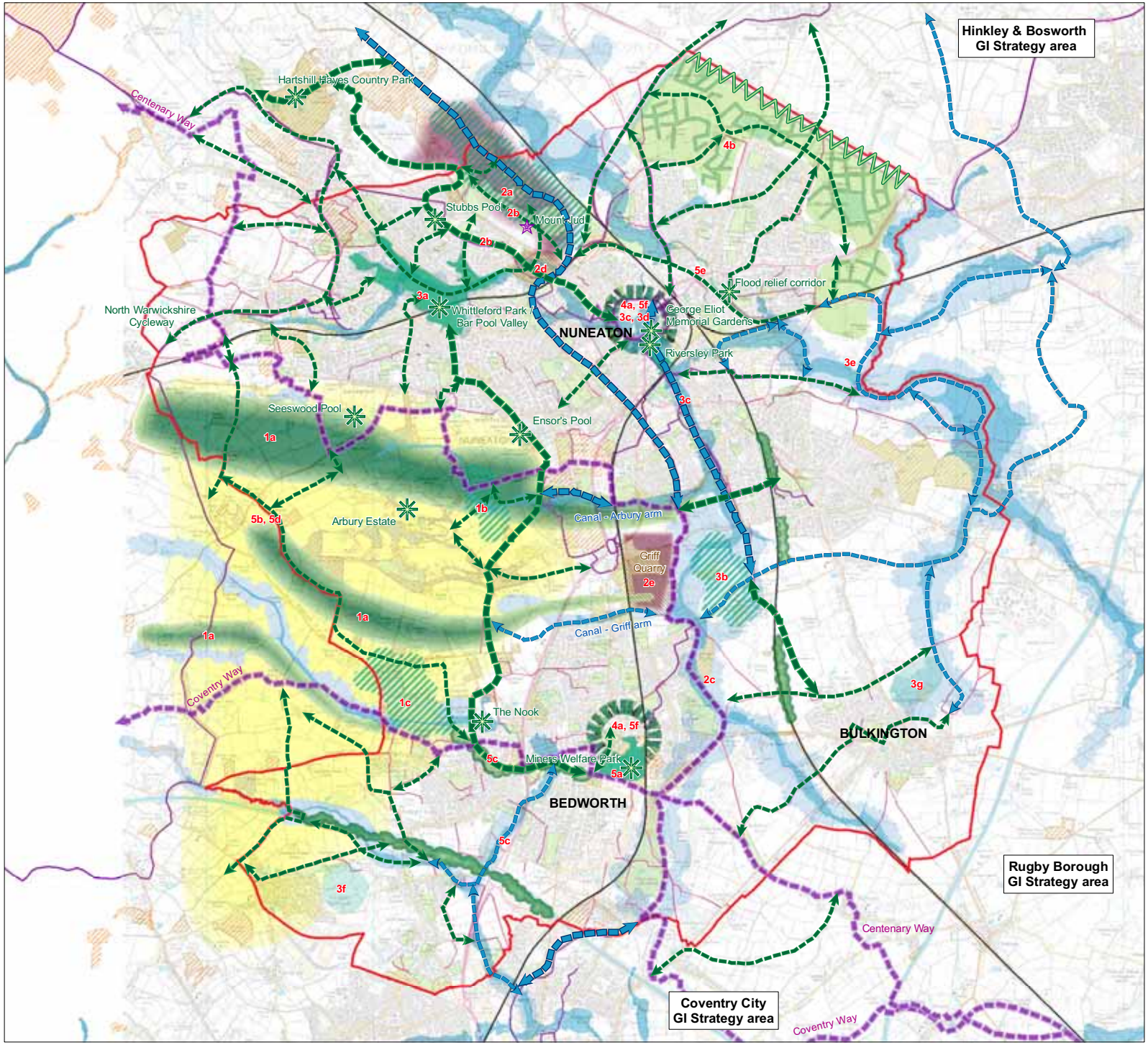
Post industrial discovery zone
Vision:
Understanding, accessing and enjoying the town's post industrial heritage (and geology) as part of a network of greenspaces

Urban waterways and wetlands zone
Vision:
Restating the town's relationship with its landscape and strategic corridors. Connections for people and habitats. Link urban wetlands to wetland wildernesses and river valleys

Urban greening zone
Vision:
Creation of spaces for people within the town centres, and microclimates, with urban cooling to adapt to climate change

Strategic and local greenways and corridors
Vision:
A linked network of radial routes between key greenspaces, and to connect townscape and landscape. Accessible for a wide variety of users

4.8. The proposed Green Infrastructure Network is shown at **Figure 4.1**, with the component strategic green infrastructure projects or 'spatial interventions' described in table 4.1. Table 4.1 sets out the projects and a short evaluation of their potential in relation the environmental functions. It also identifies 'key messages' in relation to conservation and enhancement of key green infrastructure assets and links, to inform spatial planning options and future development management decisions. The table also starts to identify some of the opportunities and constraints associated with projects, to inform the project prioritisation exercise at Chapter 5.



Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Figure 4.1: Proposed Green Infrastructure Network

Key

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary

Existing

- Green infrastructure landmark
- Existing strategic green infrastructure
- Long distance footpaths
- Footpaths
- Cycle routes (existing/under development)
- Railway lines
- Destination greenspace
- Open space sites
- Nature conservation sites
- Woodland wildlife corridors - enhancement potential
- Quarry
- Wetland habitat

Proposed

- 1a Project locations
- Structural landscape buffer
- Strategic inter neighbourhood green links
- Strategic inter neighbourhood blue links
- Local inter neighbourhood green links
- Local inter neighbourhood blue links
- Destination greenspace
- Local greenspace
- Landscape structure restoration
- Woodland restoration and enhancement

GI Action Zones

- Arden landscape enhancement zone
- Post industrial discovery zone
- Urban wetlands and waterways zone
- Urban greening zone

N W E S

0 1 2 Km

Source: NBBC, WCC, LUC, English Heritage Natural England, Sustrans

Date: 08/10/2009
Revision:

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Table 4.1: Green infrastructure zones and projects

GI Zone		
1. Forest of Arden landscape enhancement zone		
Vision		
Conservation, wider accessibility and greater resilience for a diverse historic landscape		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description and key messages	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
1a.Woodland management, buffering and linking to sustain the landscape structure, provide greater resilience to climate change and to create microclimate/new habitat opportunities on estate farmland. Landscape restoration to include buffering and protection of Ensor's Pool SAC. ***Key messages:*** Conserve and enhance existing mature broadleaf woodland and landscape structure (field boundaries), seeking to reinforce to provide more resilient habitat corridors in light of climate change. Conserve and enhance the parkland landscape and landscape setting of Arbury Park. Seek to enhance shared use long distance links and corridors through the Arden and Arbury Way, and enhance links between Arden and the urban area (Galley Common/Stockingford) as shown on **Figure 4.1**. Targets for habitat restoration (using UK BAP Priority types as a benchmark)[40] should include Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland, Wood-Pasture and Parkland, Hedgerows and Lowland Meadows. Smaller scale habitat features which should be re-created/enhanced/protected in this area include ponds and veteran trees. These	**Habitat provision and access to nature** Through the potential to link semi-natural woodlands with enhanced hedgerows and hedgerow trees and farm woodlands (a landscape mosaic), to buffer existing semi-natural habitats and make them more resilient to climate change. Establishment of a greater network of dedicated woodland walks for people to enjoy and access the Arden Countryside and associated habitats. **Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation** Creation of microclimates for habitats and for people, absorption and offsetting of atmospheric pollution Also: *Access and recreation* - potential to contribute to radial route network and the health agenda *Landscape setting and context* – opportunity to reinforce Arbury's relationship with the town, to 'bring the landscape in' *Productive landscapes* – depending on management regimes pursued (pollarding and coppicing), there is the opportunity to harvest wood waste for sustainable use whilst also enhancing landscape character	**+** Reduced management intensity/intervention due to new management regimes. **-** Loss of productive farmland which needs to be viable/offset against HLS payments. This may dictate level of change implemented. Need for detailed management plans to respond to and deliver character enhancement which respects local landscape context (cost/lead in times).

[40] References to 'Biodiversity Action Plan' (BAP) Priority Habitat Types and Priority Species are based on the UK BAP and Local BAP (LBAP):

- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (no date). **UK List of Priority Habitats**. [on-line]. http://www.ukbap.org.uk/PriorityHabitats.aspx (accessed July, 2009)
- Warwickshire County Council (no date). **Warwickshire, Coventry, and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan**. [on-line]. http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity (accessed July, 2009).

GI Zone		
1. Forest of Arden landscape enhancement zone		
Vision		
Conservation, wider accessibility and greater resilience for a diverse historic landscape		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description and key messages	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
enhancements would benefit a range of BAP priorities possible including: barn owl *Tyto alba* (LBAP species) which requires areas of tussocky grassland in which to hunt and tree cavities to nest. In addition, the wood-white butterfly *Leptidea sinapsis* (LBAP species) and dead-wood invertebrates (several are listed on the UK BAP).		
1b. Arbury Gateway Park – parkland restoration and enhancement to edge of the estate, to bring the countryside into the town and its urban edge, to link to Bermuda Lakes and wetland greenway to the east. ***Key messages:*** Conserve, enhance and reinforce existing mature landscape structure to the east of Arbury, ensuring that this provides an enhanced setting to the urban edge of Nuneaton, and greater opportunities for habitat connectivity. Proposals should be supported by a long term management plan which balances amenity, recreation and biodiversity objectives. Layout proposals should respect any buffer zones defined for Ensor's Pool SAC, and take account of findings within the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). Seek to create enhanced shared use green links between Arbury Gateway Park and Bermuda Lakes – Coventry Canal/Griff Arm, as shown on **Figure 4.1**. Targets for habitat restoration in this area would be as for Project 1a (see above) and based on Wood Pasture and Parkland and Hedgerows (see	**Access, recreation and movement** Parkland as part of future development proposals will enhance the permeability of the estate landscape and enhance people's awareness and appreciation of the Arden landscape. **Habitat provision and access to nature** Opportunity to link parkland to Bermuda Lakes through a lowland wetland landscape swathe and connection to a mosaic of different but linked habitats. Also: *Landscape setting* – New parkland can make references to the wider planned and designed landscape of Arbury (subtleties of landform and landshaping, native parkland tree groups/roundels, grassland management). *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* - through creation of microclimate (opportunities for shading and cooling).	**+** Potential to create recreational hub for development (formal and informal), linking to more low key recreational activity (wider Arden Countryside, waterside walks at Bermuda and connection to canal network. **-** Depends on development process to be implemented.

GI Zone		
1. Forest of Arden landscape enhancement zone		
Vision		
Conservation, wider accessibility and greater resilience for a diverse historic landscape		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description and key messages	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
UK BAP Types for restoration analogues). Where suitable hydrological conditions exist these habitat could be set within a matrix of wet grassland (wet Lowland Meadows are a UK BAP Priority) and rush pasture which supports a range of faunal species, for example, snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Localised creation of reedbed and fen communities may also be appropriate.		
1c. Newdigate Pit Ecology Park. Low key recreational provision, with opportunities for access to nature ('outdoor classroom') and new habitat creation. ***Key messages:*** Conserve, enhance and reinforce existing landscape structure within the site and to the site boundaries, seeking to encourage existing colonising vegetation, and create new planting to enhance connectivity for wildlife. Also to compartmentalise the site into a series of zones for passive and more formal recreation, including natural play. Given the amenity/educational purpose of this site, targets for habitat restoration/enhancement should be based on providing access to a variety of semi-natural vegetation types perhaps more so than precise BAP habitats[41]. Nonetheless suitable analogues for restoration/enhancement given the site's former industrial history may include flower-rich lowland meadow grassland associated with	**Habitat provision and access to nature:** Through increasing and reinforcing the existing biodiversity assets, as well as creating a new accessible green space resource, as well as broadening the range of habitats e.g. new wetland elements within former mineral workings. **Access, recreation and movement:** Through creating local level looped routes linking to the proposed Arden and Arbury Way, and connecting local and sub regional green infrastructure – a series of routes of different distances for walkers, cyclists and riders. Also: *Landscape setting and context* – through restoration of landscape structure and landscape character, and enhancement of the landscape mosaic through creation of new features such as wetlands, which also make reference to the site's industrial past. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* - through creation of microclimate through planting and wetland areas.	**+** Opportunity to restore links to the wider landscape of Arden, potential for phased delivery. **-** Need for land ownership negotiations with Arbury Estate, project also dependent on cessation of working of the site.

[41] References to 'Biodiversity Action Plan' (BAP) Priority Habitat Types and Priority Species are based on the UK BAP and Local BAP (LBAP):

- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (no date). **UK List of Priority Habitats** [on-line]. http://www.ukbap.org.uk/PriorityHabitats.aspx (accessed July, 2009)
- Warwickshire County Council (no date). **Warwickshire, Coventry, and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan** [on-line]. http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity (accessed July, 2009).

GI Zone		
1. Forest of Arden landscape enhancement zone		
Vision		
Conservation, wider accessibility and greater resilience for a diverse historic landscape		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description and key messages	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
open mosaic (brown-field) substrates; small scale ponds and broad-leaved woodland. These habitats would support macro-invertebrates (e.g. bloody-nosed beetle *Timarcha tenebricosa*, dingy skipper *Erynnis tages* and 'rare Bumblebees' are all stated in the LBAP), small mammals and common reptiles, amphibians and birds.		

GI Zone		
2. Post industrial discovery zone		
Vision		
Understanding, accessing and enjoying the town's post industrial heritage (and geology) as part of a network of greenspaces		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
2a. Judkins Parklands. Link to Hartshill Ridge project (which at its grandest might be Eden type scheme for old quarry pits, exploiting topography for events space/bowl and water based recreation – also challenge risk in play/recreation provision, something bold to address deprivation and something better for young people in Camp Hill to do). ***Key messages:*** Seek to conserve and enhance existing mineral working sites to maintain the geological record, and as a focus for appropriate, sensitively designed recreational provision which responds to and respects topography, geology and landscape context. Conserve visual relationships to Mount Jud, as this can act as a 'gateway' site. Provide equal access for a range of users and interests, including formal and passive recreation, and facilitate opportunities for access to nature. Proposals should be appropriately zoned to balance amenity, recreation and biodiversity objectives, and supported by a long term management plan. Explore opportunities for creation of new landscape character, such as wet woodland (for short rotation coppice, where this does not conflict with existing quarry habitats). Conserve and enhance existing routes and links such as along the Coventry Canal and links to the North Arden Way. Facilitate access links to the marina proposed at Midland Quarry (part of the Pride in Camp Hill initiative).	**Access, Recreation and Movement** Through integrated links to the adjacent communities, the parkland could be a catalyst for social regeneration. A network focused on movement between the parkland and the local population/wider area could lead to a more activity led approach to the open space – from small informal recreational options to the larger regionally attractive 'draws' (wider Discovery Park), and the access routes which link them. **Habitat Provision and Access to Nature** The quarry pit site as a new accessible landscape will have many opportunities to provide not only for social access, but access to and for nature. Former quarries are often typified by a number of micro-habitats forming an intricate mosaic. Such habitats include those associated with the quarry landform, for example, scrub vegetation, bare earth and semi-natural grassland dominated by emphemeral species. They also include wetland pools & semi-natural woodland fingers (connecting to the surrounding landscape). **Landscape setting and context** Opportunity to recognise and embrace the site's cultural heritage within the community, whilst creating a landscape that is distinctively unique. Also: *Productive landscapes* – depending on management regimes pursued and scale of the whole parkland scheme, there is an opportunity to harvest wood waste for sustainable use. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – Creation of a large parkland setting will provide microclimates for habitats and for people, absorption and offsetting of atmospheric pollution, whilst encouraging a move away from a	**+** Place making: regenerate an area with appropriate design scale and management through access and use of the new parkland. To become an integral component within an integrated green link from Nuneaton town centre, through Hartshill and out to Hartshill Hayes Country Park. **-** The works will have to be phased, according to the release of land. The scale of the design and activities proposed will depend largely on funding procurement. Any plans for a regional attraction will be determined by their capital costs (which may be very substantial, depending on amount of land finally released/developed).

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The often high value of the mosaic of micro habitat types within former quarry sites has recently been recognised in the UK BAP as Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land. Quarries and Gravel Pits and their associated wildlife are also listed in the LBAP. Important species which rely upon this habitat mosaic include a number of scarce plants and insects. Conservation management should seek to maintain and enhance the mosaic of different habitat types.	dependency on vehicular use.	
2b. Long distance route from Camp Hill to Hartshill Hayes and along the ridge and physical connections to Camp Hill. Hierarchy of different trails and routes (varying 'strenuousness') for users – walkers/bikes and horse riders etc. ***Key messages:*** Conserve and enhance existing links to the Coventry Canal and to the North Arden Way. Facilitate access links to the marina proposed at Midland Quarry, proposed as part of the Pride in Camp Hill initiative. Seek to create new urban links off the main route, to connect to the urban area at Camp Hill, as shown on **Figure 4.1**. Make appropriate physical and visual links to the landscape proposals within the Judkin's Discovery Parkland, considering equal access/accessibility requirements for the widest possible range of users. Suitable targets for habitat restoration along this linear corridor include semi-natural woodland and	**Access, Recreation and Movement** A multi-use pedestrian corridor link joining the Camp Hill estate to future phased parklands, open spaces and the present Country Park at Hartshill Hayes. The main access route will connect to wider links creating a series of loops to be scaled appropriately to allow different levels of distance and activity (i.e. walking, running & cycling). Destinations along the route will provide for both recreational activities (northwards), and act as a sustainable transport link (southwards) to Nuneaton town centre. **Habitat Provision and Access to Nature** The provision of a green link running through from Hartshill Hayes in the north to Camp Hill and beyond will enable greater access to nature and green spaces, away from vehicular transport links. The corridor will provide natural habitats as well as encouraging species movement into the surrounding area – opportunity to link habitats, which also increase ecological resilience to climate change. Also: *Landscape setting and context* – opportunity to link into the	**+** To create a green link connecting to the wider area encompassing large open spaces (Country Parks), with the town centre of Nuneaton, whilst providing the neighbouring estates with opportunities for access to both long and short distance activities. To create an integrated green link from Nuneaton town centre, through Hartshill and out to Hartshill Hayes Country Park. **-** Land ownership obstacles could obstruct the possibility of a continuous green route. Increased public access could place pressure on the existing nature conservation sites along the route. Route would go through and come close to several sites of quarrying and thus contaminated land issues could arise.

GI Zone		
2. Post industrial discovery zone		
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Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
glades of semi-natural grassland this will contribute to LBAP targets for these respective habitats. Key UK BAP and LBAP species which might benefit from such habitat enhancement include bats (e.g. soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*) and song thrush.	surrounding landscapes and open spaces which define much of the setting. Topographically the route has an advantaged setting to attract users who will benefit from elevated views across the wider landscape including Arden. *Climate change adaptation* – The provision of a green transport corridor will have a positive effect in respect of off-setting atmospheric pollution, and will help to encourage a move away from a dependency on vehicular use and promote 'one planet living'.	
2c. Enhancement of canal towpath to Nuneaton South for equal access and for cycles, and to link to the floodplain parklands and wetland sites to provide greater awareness of these and connections to them. Conservation of canal vernacular and themed signage. Improved link to Miners Welfare Park (vegetation management). Priority section for access enhancement is the stretch from Marston Lane to Hawkesbury. ***Key messages:*** Seek to balance access and nature conservation requirements and objectives, using appropriate vegetation management to control access and regulate antisocial activity. Where feasible it may be possible to create localised patches of high quality wetland habitat having a positive impact on the diversity of faunal species using this zone (e.g. birds, mammals and insects). Suitable targets, based on the LBAP include Reedbeds, lowland wet grassland (Lowland Meadow), Ponds and Canals.	**Access, Recreation and Movement** To enhance, improve and provide a consistent route which can, where reasonably possible, enable use by walkers and cyclists alike. Equal access surfaces to the canal side will enable greater access for the adjacent population encouraging more opportunities, functionality and connectivity. Access to nearby woodland, wetlands and recreational hubs (Miners Welfare Park) will help to provide an easily usable corridor of green spaces linking from the town centre in Bedworth out to the canal and onwards to wider area links. Appropriate co-ordinated signage will promote the corridor as place for activity and linkage to the wider area and raise awareness about places of interest for nature conservation, open space and recreation. Also: *Habitat Provision and Access to Nature* – Sufficient improvements to the access routes and signage will enhance the opportunity for access along the route to nature and raise awareness of the conservation needs of adjoining sites – to manage and protect them as habitats. *Landscape setting and context* – Re-link the canal landscape to	**+** To create a strong link for access to recreation and nature. Improve the provision for a green transport link between Bedworth and Nuneaton. To use mitigation from future developments to strengthen community links (landscape structure as movement corridors, parks/greenspace – common ground). **-** Width restrictions dictated by the canal route may create difficulties for a continuous standard for surfacing and path provisions. Tow path upgrade and reinstatement across a long length of canal (including former overbridge) will have significant capital costs.

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Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
	neighbouring communities in a way that provides a viable link for recreation, transport and nature conservation. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – The improvement of the towpath for greater access will increase its use as a transport link which in turn will have pollution offsetting benefits.	
2d. Midland Quarry water body: The future use of a post industrial landform as a mixed use development with a focus on water based recreation and new node for canal transport (marina). ***Key messages:*** To enhance the link with the adjacent canal through appropriate design in order to create a balance between access and wildlife conservation. Future development such as the marina and diving centre should respond to and respect the existing landform. Conserve and enhance existing habitat colonisation - opportunity for the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and biodiversity through the protection and management of the quarry landscape, within designated areas throughout the proposed development. Opportunities should be sought to link such habitats within the landscape design. Although habitat provision is not a primary objective of this project, it should be possible to	**Access, Recreation and Movement** The quarry site has a central location with the green infrastructure network and will link to the wider network through multi-use pedestrian routes joining up to Judkins Quarry, the canal, Camp Hill estate and further afield to Hartshill Hayes Country Park. Access routes to the town centre in Nuneaton will form a sustainable transport link. The site will provide a range of recreational opportunities, made available through the quarry landform and proximity to the canal, focusing on water based activities. **Landscape Setting and Context** Opportunity to create a unique landscape environment using the quarry forms and context to inform the shape and nature of proposed development, and to use such features as a focus for a landscape led piece of green infrastructure, of significant scale. The site's industrial heritage provides important cultural associations and links for the area and this relates directly to the surrounding sites of Judkins & Hartshill. **Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation** Increased provision of water storage on site through water based activities and a canal marina could help to act as	**+** To create an improved landscape linking to the wider green infrastructure network from a currently disused quarry site. Improve the provision for recreation through water based activities on site and through access to the canal network – opportunity to address deprivation. To use as mitigation for development to strengthen the adjacent green links to the surrounding areas, and enhance landscape setting. **-** Proposals would be subject to feasibility studies and an EIA, as well as requiring consent from various statutory bodies (i.e. Environment Agency) The delivery of the scheme will have very substantial capital costs.

[42] Warwickshire County Council (no date). **Warwickshire, Coventry, and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan** [on-line]. http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/biodiversity (accessed July, 2009).

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Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
deliver small-scale habitats enhancement guided by species and habitat targets contained within the LBAP. For example, the Habitat Action Plan for 'Urban, Post-industrial, Wetland'[42] habitats is of relevance to this site.	attenuation and provide a balancing scheme for the canal and associated hydrology. New improved links to the wider green network will help to encourage a move away from a dependency on vehicular use and promote 'one planet living'. Also: *Habitat Provision and Access to Nature* – The site has limited potential for wetland habitat within the future uses primarily focused on human activity. Access to nature and the wider green network will be encouraged through the improved links to the canal and vegetation management within the site.	
2e. Griff Quarry: Site for potential nature reserve, providing low key access for the public with a new linking route along the old Griff canal corridor. ***Key messages:*** To create an area focusing on wildlife habitat within the quarry site. The site is centrally placed within a wider network of green corridors providing varying uses for both the public and nature. Conserve links to Coventry Canal and provide enhanced links along the former Griff Arm of the canal. Griff Quarry as a nature reserve would provide a key site for ecology and new habitat links allowing free movement of wildlife. Low key access and routes to link up public routes to be interpretation led, to provide educational opportunities. An opportunity to create high quality habitat.	**Habitat Provision and Access to Nature** Through management of the existing colonised habitats within the post industrial landscape and low key additions (habitat creation through wetlands) the site could provide an important wildlife base linking to adjacent green corridors. Low key access to wildlife (through wetland boardwalks etc.) would be appropriate to ensure a level of public awareness and interaction. **Sustainable Resource Management and climate change adaptation** Provision of new wildlife habitats will have a positive effect on the off setting of atmospheric pollution. There is also the potential for microclimate creation (shading and cooling) through new planting on parts of the route. *Landscape setting and context* – The re-use of a quarry site for wildlife purposes will provide an opportunity to use and enhance the unique landscape of the site.	**+** Opportunity to create a nature reserve as a haven for wildlife within the green network corridors and to provide appropriate low key public access. **-** The quarry is still in use, and project depends on the life of the works left, and there would be a need to vary the after use consent for the site. A need for phased implementation may limit the effectiveness of the site as a nature reserve. An increased need for specialist management may be required for future upkeep to deliver functions.

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Contingent on an assessment of how feasible restoration/enhancement of different habitats is, this project could potentially contribute to delivery of a number of UK BAP and LBAP targets. For example, suitable analogues for restoration may include 'open mosaic habitats' (UK BAP), lowland neutral grassland, scrub and carr, reedbed and 'quarries and gravel pits' (all LBAP habitats). These enhancements could stand to benefit a range of LBAP species. For example, the small blue and dingy skipper (butterflies), great crested newt (also listed on the UK BAP) and birds such as snipe. Potentially also mammals such as otter (also listed on the UK BAP) if the ecological condition of the network of surrounding water courses is also improved.		

GI Zone		
3. Urban waterways and wetlands zone		
Vision		
Restating the town's relationship with its landscape and strategic corridors. Connections for people and habitats. Link urban wetlands to wetland wildernesses and river valleys.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
3a. Wetland enhancement and improved management presence/access enhancement to valley at Camp Hill (Whittleford Park and Bar Pool Valley – a key destination green space); widening and diversifying wetland and riparian habitat here through management variation to create flood meadows and flood pasture. Potential for instigation of traditional management (grazing regimes) – a distinctive landscape feature. Improved pedestrian and cycle accessibility to link valley from Hartshill to Nuneaton north. Also to include enhanced access to the wider GI network via signage strategy and connections from Ensors/Arbury/Canal. ***Key messages:*** Conserve, enhance and where possible extend and reinforce the wetland landscape character within the valley, ensuring that access proposals and enhancements respect and respond to these. Proposals should be supported by a long term management plan to balance amenity, recreation and biodiversity interests. Conserve and enhance existing access links within the valley (as shown on **Figure 4.1**), providing access for the widest possible range of users and interests, and enhancing links to the urban areas of Camp Hill and Stockingford. Key habitat restoration targets based on the LBAP include Reedbeds, Ponds, Canals and Swamp habitats. If grazing animals are available more ambitious targets for restoration of vegetation	**Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation** Provided through linking of existing wetland habitats and expansion of and expansion/buffering of riparian habitat corridors. A key opportunity is to expand/create further wet woodlands to provide microclimate and reinforce the sense of place, as well as the use of sustainable sylvicultural management for biofuel and wood waste. **Access and recreation** Social benefits of enhanced permeability and accessibility and therefore appreciation of the landscape, realised through themed wetland trail and link from Camp Hill-Judkins-Hartshill Hayes. Also link to canal corridor (central movement corridor/'artery' linking town centre, suburbs and all key greenspace nodes). Potential to change management of spaces adjacent to Camp Hill urban area (and which are currently unused) for more active recreation, and to assist in addressing social deprivation issues. Also: *Habitat provision and access to nature* – through expanded and reinforced mosaic of wetland habitat including wet woodland, flood meadow, marginal and inundation/scrapes. New areas of habitat could form a focus for points along the path/cycle route through the space – use of boardwalks/crossing points etc. *Landscape setting and context* – through expanding the wetland area through relaxed and changed management (more specialised management, though of reduced intensity), to bring the landscape to the town.	**+** Greater community involvement in ongoing management (increased community cohesion) **-** Although many of these changes could be realised through simple changes in management, this needs commitment/'buy in' from the Council/landowner, and use of appropriate resources/contractors

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tending towards Lowland (wet) Meadow (also an LBAP habitat type) may exist. These habitats would support a diversity of aquatic insects such as dragonflies and act as feeding areas for mammalian and bird species, for example, bats (an LBAP priority) and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.		
3b. Floodplain Parklands – a linked network of wetland spaces from SINC site and SUSTRANS 52 and Ashby Canal – flood meadow parklands and lakes/scrapes for habitat, natural/water play associated with development + linked by trails/paths and better quality cycle route. Also connections to Bermuda Lakes/Arbury Arm. Scrapes/pond areas etc at Ashby Canal and River Anker junction, to include access to nature and low key recreation in relation to future development – water play etc. ***Key messages:*** Conserve, enhance existing features of the low lying wetland landscape – broad, valley landform, wetland vegetation, mature trees and hedgerow lines, seeking opportunities to restore and reinstate wetland landscape features. Conserve and enhance access links to the canal network (Coventry and Ashby Canals), seeking to create a hierarchy of more local shared use accessible routes through the parkland (including links to Nuneaton town centre as part of access enhancements along the Anker corridor). The area of search for the floodplain parkland may be able to accommodate relatively large-scale	**Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation** Can be achieved through creation of expanded lowland wetland habitat and associated linking corridors (along Anker, Ashby Canal and Wem Brook) through a scheme of wetland creation (scrapes/pond areas) and wet woodland planting but also through changes in management to allow colonisation. Reinforce and extend habitats to make them more resilient to fragmentation. There is also potential for sustainable woodland management (woodfuel/waste etc). **Habitat provision and access to nature** Link areas of new wetland habitat to an enhanced path/PROW network (also to the Sustrans network – Coventry Canal), and through creation of dedicated access points (boardwalks, decks, points for informal recreation and educational activity – wildlife viewing hides, pond dipping etc) – green infrastructure as outdoor classroom, with opportunities for natural play. **Landscape setting and context** Through delivery of new floodplain parklands as part of future development an enhanced landscape setting can be provided, as well as greater landscape/townscape permeability – a new green wedge to bring the landscape into the town, and to create an attractive parkland setting where landscape and townscape connect.	**+** Opportunity for relaxed management and therefore relatively low revenue costs, also opportunity for establishment of Friends Group/community volunteering in ongoing management – natural policing and surveillance – Loss of farmland/land take, although this space would necessarily be delivered off the back of development and should be factored into land purchase negotiations if development occurred in this location. Proposals depend on presence of a wider development masterplan to proceed (significant scale of development).

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Vision		
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Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
habitat creation/enhancement opportunities. Targets for habitat creation include multiple LBAP types including Lowland (wet) Meadows, Reedbed, Wet Woodland and Swamp habitats. These habitats can often be combined in over a relatively small area as a mosaic of patches of micro-habitat. Such enhancement works would benefit multiple LBAP species possibly including water vole *Arvicola terrestis* and great-crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. These enhancement works might also augment habitat for regionally important populations of white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. A long-term aim might be for creation of suitable wetland habitats, rich in fish and insect life, for birds such as the bittern *Botaurus stellaris*	**Access and recreation** Provision of opportunities for low key recreation (walks for health, fishing lakes), opportunity to experience and enjoy at close hand wetland landscapes, and link to the wider countryside network via the Canals and Sustrans Routes. A key opportunity is provision of shared use routes to ensure the new parkland is accessible for all. Wetland environments create a key opportunity for water based natural play for children. Outside of the floodplain and closer to development areas there may be opportunities for more formal/structured recreation, addition to routes for health (green gyms/trim trails etc). Potential for greater access to existing wetland landscape assets e.g. Bermuda through linked path/route network. Also *Productive landscapes* – may be realised through sustainable management of new wet woodlands e.g. coppice for biofuel, as well as opportunities for allotments/community gardens.	
3c. Urban river corridor – a new greenway along the River Anker from Hartshill-railway-bus station to town centre north (inside the ring road), reconnecting to the south via an 'urban green' zone, linked to Bus Station redevelopment and Nuneaton Development Project. ***Key messages:*** Enhance and restore wetland landscape character along the watercourse, seeking opportunities to extend and link wetland habitat. Seek to facilitate greater access along the urban stretches of the Anker, through opening up stretches of the river as part of the	**Access, Recreation and Movement** The River Anker running through the centre of Nuneaton can provide an important North – South link through the centre linking out to the wider network of greenways and open spaces. Access along side the river for pedestrians (and shared use where feasible for cycles) will create a safe green transport route away from busy roads. **Habitat Provision and Access to Nature** A green link enhancement running through Nuneaton will open up the opportunity for users to gain easier and more frequent access to local wildlife and become more aware of the importance of the River Anker. The corridor will provide a range	**+** To revitalise the presence of the River Anker within the town centre as an important green asset to Nuneaton. Create a green link connecting to the wider area making recreation, travel and nature more accessible. To provide an important link for Nuneaton within the centre and its town parks and public transport hubs (i.e. bus station & train station). **-** Increased use could impact on the existing natural habitat and wildlife already within the River Anker.

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comprehensive redevelopment proposals for sites such as the Bus Station, realised through the Nuneaton Masterplan. Access proposals should consider equal access requirements and shared use (pedestrians/cyclists). Within this corridor, targets for habitat restoration include wetland LBAP habitats such as Reedbed and Swamp (marginal riparian vegetation) habitats. In addition, provision of semi-natural woodland and meadow grassland fringing the river corridor would increase the diversity and abundance of plants and animals using this urban area but also act as a buffer and offer protection to riparian habitats.	of wetland, woodland and grassland habitats and encourage species movement through the corridor possibly improving the resilience of urban wildlife populations through greater connectivity with other habitats across the city and in the surrounding countryside. Also: *Landscape setting and context* – Using the River valley as a form of green transport will increase the landscape quality and experience for the town's users as well as revive the River Anker as an important feature within the town. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – The enhancement of the river corridor as a green transport link joining up to green spaces on the fringe of the centre will have a positive effect on the off setting of atmospheric pollution, and will aid a move away from vehicular dependency. New planting and changes in landscape management will also create the potential for microclimates and shading/cooling.	Capital costs for any town path creation (i.e. for bridges, suspended walkway etc.).
3d. Restoration and enhancement of the river edges within George Eliot and Riversley Parks through changes in vegetation management, so that the river becomes the primary focus for these spaces. Dedication of through route for cyclists etc through these spaces to link to SUSTRANS Route. ***Key messages:*** Enhance and restore wetland landscape character along the watercourse, seeking opportunities to extend and link wetland habitat. Seek to use appropriate vegetation management to open up views to the river. Similarly the presence of wetland and reed vegetation can be used to control access – to make people aware of	**Access, Recreation and Movement** A path hierarchy denoting priority users and uses will enable the parks to be better linked and used by a range of people. Such as a cycle path route which links the parks without obstructing other park activities. A range of routes will help create more suitable links to the wider network of loops and greenways. Improved access to the river side with appropriate uses and activities will improve how the parks are used and enjoyed. **Habitat Provision and Access to Nature** Through appropriate management and a greater appreciation of the river as the primary feature of the parklands, wildlife habitats can be encouraged. Access to nature can be encouraged in areas of the river which are suitable for such use without disturbance	**+** Opportunities to create a more varied and appropriately balanced area of parkland providing both formal and informal areas for pedestrians, wildlife and flood attenuation alike. Path network which provides good access for all users without compromising each individual user type. **-** Change of management regime (needs commitment from Council and contractors). Capital costs of improving the path networks.

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Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
potential hazards associated with water. Proposals should be supported by an appropriate long term management plan, balancing amenity, biodiversity, access and recreation objectives. Access proposals should consider equal access requirements and shared use (pedestrians/cyclists), creating a through route, allowing for other paths within these spaces to be used as more informal recreational routes. Given its urban location, suitable habitats for creation might be focussed on the river channel itself to avoid any conflict with recreational uses. For example, vegetation types tending towards LBAP habitats such as Reedbed and Swamp (aquatic marginal vegetation). These habitat would support a diversity of aquatic insects such as dragonflies and act as feeding areas for mammalian and bird species possibly including bats (many species are UKBAP listed) and wetland birds, for example, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and common wetland species such as moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*.	to areas of nature conservation interest. Also: *Landscape setting and context* – Enhancing the river through management will help to create a range of environments appropriate to a wet landscape, which in turn will provide a better setting in the landscape both for the users and the river itself (i.e. areas for user access, areas for flood attenuation and nature conservation). *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – The enhancement of the river corridor with varied management and recognising that the river is a living element within the park is a central part of improved flood attenuation. Vegetated banks will help to aid future floodrisk management. An enhanced river corridor will also benefit the off setting of atmospheric pollution, with greater access to the river corridor creating potential for microclimate and urban cooling.	
3e. Anker Valley east – floodplain parklands (including SUDS) for new development to Nuneaton east. ***Key messages:*** Conserve, enhance and restore the floodplain landscape of the Anker in this area, seeking opportunities to create expanded wetland habitat for increased resilience in light of climate change.	**Landscape setting and context** Through restoration, enhancement and expansion of the wetland landscape character around Nuneaton East, as a focus for new green links to physically and visually connect landscape and townscape. **Habitat provision and access to nature** Through creation of accessible new areas of wetland habitat, including flood meadow, reedbed and marginal vegetation, and	**+** Significant opportunity for wetland habitat creation and enhancement – a landscape mosaic which can be delivered through the development masterplan and HLS Enhanced relationship of the town to its cultural landscape Significant green lung, which contribute to the health agenda **-**

GI Zone		
3. Urban waterways and wetlands zone		
Vision		
Restating the town's relationship with its landscape and strategic corridors. Connections for people and habitats. Link urban wetlands to wetland wildernesses and river valleys.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
Restoration of landscape structure, in the form of riverside trees/corridors and hedgerows/hedgerow trees should also be used as a template for future development within urban extensions, and to provide landscape and visual mitigation. Seek to facilitate increased recreational access via the footpath network and through creation of a new riverside walk (access to nature), as shown on **Figure 4.1**. In terms of habitats, this project offers opportunities for creation of high quality wetland habitats benefiting a range of species (*see 3b this above*). The Anker Valley is potentially more suited to restoration of larger tracts of habitat tending towards Floodplain Grazing Marsh and Lowland (wet) Meadow (both UK and LBAP habitat types) owing to its more open aspect and greater contiguity with more extensive areas of farmland. If appropriate grazing management can be secured, creation of these habitats could benefit a range of plant and animal species such as wet grassland birds, for example, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* and possibly redshank *Tringa totanus*. As a long term aim, if suitable areas of habitat free of excessive human disturbance can be secured and water quality improved, this may eventually attract species such as otter *Lutra lutra* to the Anker Valley.	areas of wet woodland as part of the mitigation for development. Access proposals can be designed as an integral part of new habitat creation (albeit controlled – to protect habitat and for health and safety). **Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation** Creation of an expanded wetland landscape and 'softer', more flexible river and wetland edges will provide for enhanced flood storage potential, potentially reduced floodrisk, and cooling effect through evapotranspiration/local microclimate creation. Also: *Access, Recreation and Movement* – through creation of an integrated network of radial/concentric routes and loops/links, connecting parkland, community and existing links within the town. This should create a network of shared use routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders where feasible.	Capital costs are substantial. Scheme is dependent on development to occur, although it could be delivered in smaller phases.
3f. Keresley Wetland Park Creation of a new community greenspace for the village, to meet potential future deficiency in light	**Access, recreation and movement** Through provision of an enhanced community greenspace resource for Kerseley, and creation of enhanced access links to	**+** Key opportunity to provide expanded greenspace provision and for an expanded range

GI Zone		
3. Urban waterways and wetlands zone		
Vision		
Restating the town's relationship with its landscape and strategic corridors. Connections for people and habitats. Link urban wetlands to wetland wildernesses and river valleys.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
of future growth. ***Key messages:*** Enhance links to the wider green infrastructure network, via the Sowe Valley, to ensure that Keresley is properly connected and integrated with wider green infrastructure proposals. Ensure that footpath links to the wider network are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of the space. Conserve the network of small scale wetland corridors and features within the site, seeking opportunities to enhance links between these through expanded wetland vegetation and enhanced landscape management. Targets for habitat restoration include species-rich hedgerows and ponds (both UK BAP Priorities) which should be managed sympathetically to provide nesting habitat for farmland birds (LBAP) and sheltering/feeding opportunities for small mammals. As and where feasible, attention should be given to restoration of small semi-natural woodlands associated with the existing hedgerow network and creation/restoration of Lowland Meadow (a local and national BAP Priority). Both habitats would act as ecological buffers to the more extensive habitat network in the neighbouring Arden Landscape Zone.	the wider green infrastructure network (e.g. along the Sowe Valley). Subject to zoning and future detailed design, the site can allow for formal recreation and enhanced opportunities for play – natural play/water play. **Habitat provision and access to nature** This can be realised through the creation of an enhanced and better linked series of wetland habitats, facilitating opportunities for informal access within the park (e.g. via boardwalks). Also: *Landscape setting and context* – through maintaining the sense of separation between Keresley Newlands and Ash Green and provision of an enhanced urban-rural landscape interface. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – through provision of expanded and more flexible wetland habitat, which has the potential for greater resilience in the face of climate change. *Productive landscapes* – through dedication of part of the site as a focus for a community garden/productive gardens	of social and interest/age groups. - Capital cost implications, and of land purchase. Land take and loss of farmland. Ongoing management needs to secure design intentions (need for a Friends group). Scheme is also likely to be dependent upon development to occur.
3g. Bulkington Community Park Opportunity to address green infrastructure deficiency in Bulkington Village, specifically in	**Productive landscapes** Through careful zoning, there is the opportunity to realise this function through new community gardens as a central focus for	**+** Key opportunity to meet an identified greenspace deficiency (allotment provision).

GI Zone		
3. Urban waterways and wetlands zone		
Vision		
Restating the town's relationship with its landscape and strategic corridors. Connections for people and habitats. Link urban wetlands to wetland wildernesses and river valleys.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
relation to allotment provision. ***Key messages:*** Create, conserve and enhance links to Weston in Arden and Anker Valley footpath network. Conserve and enhance floodplain character in relation to River Anker and associated floodzone, as part of the park. Allotments comprise an intricate mosaic of small scale habitat features such as flower-rich horticultural species, bare earth, compost-heads and features such as log-piles. These can be of high ecological value supporting mammals such as the hedgehog (UK BAP), common amphibians and reptiles and farmland (LBAP) and garden birds. Attention needs to be given to reducing insecticide and herbicide usage if these species are to benefit.	the open space. **Landscape setting and context** Potential to enhance the village's physical and visual relationship to its wider landscape and to the Anker Valley. **Access, recreation and movement** Through creation of new opportunities for passive and formal recreation as part of a local park, and potential links to the wider PROW network. Also: *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – through creation of new opportunities for local food production. *Habitat provision and access to nature* – through opportunities fro new habitat through new native structure planting as part of the landscape proposals	**-** Dependent on development process to occur. Significant land take. Land purchase and capital cost implications. Need for ongoing management and community involvement (Friends group).

GI Zone		
4. Urban greening zone		
Vision		
Creation of spaces for people within the town centres, and microclimates, with urban cooling to adapt to climate change.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
4a. New street tree planting within the (generously proportioned) pedestrianised streets, within Nuneaton Town Centre and also Bedworth, to reflect wetland valley floodplain palette (in more cultivated form) and to create microclimate variation within the town centre's predominantly hard paved spaces. Also to provide visual connections (and therefore legibility) with the urban greenspace network e.g. along the Anker Valley. ***Key messages:*** Plan in advance for new larger grade street planting (of appropriate native species and cultivated forms of these) when planning for new infrastructure as part of the Nuneaton Masterplan, ensuring that other infrastructure fits around this requirement and allows for long term tree growth.	**Habitat Provision and Access to Nature** Enhanced streetscape planting will provide greater access to nature within the built up urban environment. New green corridors will provide a microclimate for habitats and encourage species movement through the corridor expanding their presence and out into the adjacent open green spaces (i.e. Riversley Park in Nuneaton). **Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation** The introduction of new planting will have a positive effect on the off setting of atmospheric pollution and in creation of microclimates (urban shading and cooling). **Landscape setting and context** Planting within the town centres will improve the landscape settings of the existing hard surfaced, exposed pedestrian corridors, whilst at the same time encouraging a better relationship with the wider landscape (through appropriate species selection). Also: *Access, Recreation and Movement* – Strategic planting and enhancement within the town centres will help improve the existing circulation and provide visible links through the streets and to the nearby green spaces.	**+** Quick, immediate impact – range of benefits at the local scale. An opportunity to add greater visible quality to the streetscapes at a relatively low cost. **-** Increased ongoing management within the town centre.
4b. Restoration of landscape structure to Nuneaton North as part of development proposals – framework for climate change adaptation, movement and wildlife corridors and visual mitigation, and including new areas of green	**Landscape setting and context** Through restoration of the historic field boundary pattern and landscape framework, a strong structure will be created in which development can be sit (sense of place – a 'place led' approach to providing for the other environmental functions such as habitat	**+** Can be realised through both HLS where land is to remain in agricultural ownership (Community farms etc) and also through developer contributions (CIL) A key opportunity for landscape led masterplanning, with the landscape structure/recreated landscape (the essence of the place) being the basis for all the

GI Zone		
4. Urban greening zone		
Vision		
Creation of spaces for people within the town centres, and microclimates, with urban cooling to adapt to climate change.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
space. ***Key messages:*** Restoration of landscape structure, in the form of riverside trees/corridors and hedgerows/hedgerow trees should be used as a template for future development within urban extensions, and to provide landscape and visual mitigation. Ensure that future development takes account of growth rates and allows for tree planting to provide meaningful opportunities long term climate for change adaptation (e.g. through shading and cooling and microclimate). Targets for habitat restoration include species-rich Hedgerows (a UK BAP Priority) which should be managed sympathetically to provide nesting habitat for birds and sheltering/feeding opportunities for small mammals. As and where feasible attention should be given to restoration of creation/restoration of Lowland Meadow (a local and national BAP Priority) and small semi-natural woodlands. This area could support a number of LBAP species, such as farmland birds, including: skylark *Alauda arvensis*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus* and corn bunting *Emberiza calandra*.	connectivity and movement corridors). This project also contributes to urban greening and the assimilation of development in its context, important in maintaining the landscape setting and perceived sense of separation from Hinkley. **Habitat provision and access to nature** Through restoration, planting and management of new native landscape structure corridors and use of plant material of local provenance and local seed populations. The landscape framework can also form the basis for linear greenspaces and grassland management regimes – micro habitat creation to enhance urban biodiversity. Also *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – The creation of a strong landscape framework and structural planting, will in time, create areas of miocroclimate variation and assist with shading and cooling – green oases or lungs to reduce the urban heat island effect. Landscape restoration zone could also extend to creating small scale feature such as ponds and scrapes for run off collection and evapotranspiration (also as focus for greenspaces). *Productive landscapes* – Through integration of community gardens/allotments and orchards/community supported agriculture within and in proximity to new community greenspace. Opportunity for community management and to get more directly in touch with their landscapes (educational value also). *Access, recreation and movement* Through creation of dedicated shared use routes within greenspaces and along green/landscape structure corridors,	other GI functions – a 'green' development in every sense. - Landscape enhancement is an integral part of development mitigation and therefore can only really occur of the back of this (given level of capital cost and ongoing revenue activity required to manage in the longer term)

GI Zone		
4. Urban greening zone		
Vision		
Creation of spaces for people within the town centres, and microclimates, with urban cooling to adapt to climate change.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
	creating a series of integrated links with longer distance routes (such as the Weddington Way) and to the town centre via disused rail lines. Greenspaces associated with development (and linked to Anker Valley parklands) will allow for passive and formal recreation, within the landscape framework.	

GI Zone		
5. Strategic and local greenways and corridors		
Vision		
A linked network of radial routes between key greenspaces, and to connect townscape and landscape. Accessible for a wide variety of users.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
5a. Improved urban greenway link between Bedworth Town centre, Miners Welfare Park (MWP) and cemetery, including connection to wider GI network via canal. To include improved vegetation and landscape management within MWP (community safety). ***Key messages:*** Plan in advance for new larger grade street planting (of appropriate native species and cultivated forms of these) when planning for new infrastructure as part of the Bedworth Masterplan, and where these can be accommodated in greenway proposals, ensuring that other infrastructure fits around this requirement and allows for long term tree growth. Planting of species-rich hedgerows, planting of berry producing shrubs and tree species and localised creation of patches of flower-rich semi-natural grassland (possibly seeded) may benefit multiple species. For example, bats and song thrush *Turdus philomelos* (both BAP/LBAP priorities) and numerous nectar feeding invertebrates such as butterflies and bees.	**Access and recreation** A key opportunity is to provide a sustainable link between the park and town centre. The park currently acts as a recreational 'hub', but greater connections could be made through improved signage and 'urban greening' to connect park and town. The greenway link could connect to the canal (a key strategic route for cyclists and walkers) and should encompass vegetation management to key spaces within the park – greater permeability and sense of security/safety (e.g. knoll to the south). Also *Landscape setting and context* – through improved landscape management within the park and opening of views through selective vegetation management and clearance, to improve the relationship of town and park to their wider landscape. *Habitat provision and access to nature* – The park fulfils a wide range of 'people' and social functions and this should not be changed, although there is potential to enhance urban biodiversity through additional native tree planting and changes to grassland management in 'passive' recreational areas which otherwise have little functional value. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – contribution to one planet living through provision of a link which forms part of the car free travel network.	**+** Opportunity for enhanced community involvement in the park's management and 'natural policing' **-** Highways/safety constraints in relation to the urban section of the greenway and where it crosses the ring road, to the town centre. Due to urban grain and density of development within Bedworth, this part of the link can only be about improved signage and possible small scale urban greening, which still has a significant capital cost implication. A change in management regimes needs support from council and contractors; also the need for interpretation/explanation so the wider public understand that the change is for urban biodiversity rather than through neglect.
5b. Arden and Arbury Way (including link to North Arden Way and the Arbury Estate) part of a new radial per urban greenway for Nuneaton (5d). Links to Arbury Estate and long distance routes such as Centenary Way. Includes a 'long distance' shared use link on disused railway line to Hartshill Hayes (connection to wider North Warwickshire Cycle Route).	**Access and recreation** Contribution to health agenda through a new dedicated walking route in an attractive landscape, connected to Arbury Gateway Parkland via the Centenary Way, and a series of woodland walks within the woodland enhancement zone. **Landscape setting and context** Delivered as part of woodland restoration zone – enables people to access, experience and enjoy the special qualities of the Arden	**+** Much of the route follows existing ROWs/tracks and could be delivered through surface upgrades, signage improvement ad shorter stretches to link the existing network. Project can be developed as a component part of project 5d – phased implementation. **-** If dedicated as a shared use route, land take/access negotiations are likely to be more

GI Zone		
5. Strategic and local greenways and corridors		
Vision		
A linked network of radial routes between key greenspaces, and to connect townscape and landscape. Accessible for a wide variety of users.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
Key messages: Access proposals should consider equal access requirements and shared use (pedestrians/cyclists), as far as practicable. Signage and gates should be appropriate to the rural Arden landscape character.	landscape.	significant, as would capital costs associated with widening the route to a minimum of 2.5m (to SUSTRANS or equivalent specification).
5c. New green track on old Mineral Railway Line, linking Bedworth to the Arbury Estate (shared use – foot and cycleway), to include connection to Sowe Valley/Breach Brook, and to footpath network at Barnacle. ***Key messages:*** Access proposals should consider equal access requirements and shared use (pedestrians/cyclists), as far as practicable. The route should facilitate links to the urban greenway, to connect the town centre and Miner's Welfare Park with Arbury and also make local connections to other GI assets such as the Sowe Valley (as shown on the GI proposals map). This will ensure that localities such as Keresley are integrated with the GI network. Enhancement of woodland and grassland habitats could benefit multiple LBAP species by providing additional nesting/feeding and sheltering habitat. For example, song thrush, bats and also common bird species of urban areas and private gardens. Localised creation of patches of flower-rich semi-natural grassland (possibly seeded) would benefit numerous nectar feeding invertebrates such as butterflies and bees. Proposals should be supported by a long term management plan to balance amenity, biodiversity	**Access, Recreation and Movement** The disused railway line can provide important lateral green access links through Bedworth out to Miners Welfare Park and the canal to the East, and towards the Arbury Estate to the West. A shared use surface serving walkers, runners, cyclists & where feasible horse riders will provide recreational opportunities and increase links to other destinations for further activity. **Habitat Provision and Access to Nature** A green link enhancement running through Bedworth will open up opportunities for the adjacent communities to gain easier and more frequent access to local wildlife and link to areas of natural interest. The corridor will provide microclimate variation for species and encourage species movement. Also: *Landscape setting and context* – Recognise a new use for a landscape which represents an important part of the town's heritage whilst creating a new setting for access, recreation and wildlife within Bedworth. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – The introduction of a new green lateral transport link joining up to other more distant routes (i.e. the canal) will have a positive effect on the off setting of atmospheric pollution, and will aid a move away from vehicular dependency. There is also the potential for microclimate creation (shading and cooling) through	**+** To regenerate a disused strip which represents part of Bedworth's history. Create a green link connecting to the wider area making recreation, travel and nature more accessible. To provide an important link for Bedworth with a wider network of green links, loops and destinations. **-** Increased use could impact on the natural habitat and wildlife already on the site. Capital costs for a significant length of surfacing for a multi-use path, and associated with signage.

GI Zone		
5. Strategic and local greenways and corridors		
Vision		
A linked network of radial routes between key greenspaces, and to connect townscape and landscape. Accessible for a wide variety of users.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
and recreational objectives.	new planting on parts of the route.	
5d. New peri urban radial greenway (walking and riding route), with shorter radial radial/concentric routes off the main route, linking to principal greenspace sites. Link to wider green infrastructure route network, e.g. Coventry Way and Heart of England Way. ***Key messages:*** Access proposals should consider equal access requirements and shared use (pedestrians/cyclists), as far as practicable.	**Access and recreation** Contribution to health agenda through a new dedicated walking routes (hierarchy of routes – short and intermediate routes including for jogging/running, longer (1/2 day-1day route for more serious walkers/rambling/orienteering etc, plus links to the longer distance network). A route which links key nodes and of recreational focus and other interest, such as Judkins Discovery Park, the canal and wetlands and Arbury. If dedicated as a shared use (cycle) route, further recreational opportunities are available, for a wider range of users. **Landscape setting and context** Through enabling people to experience and enjoy the post industrial landscape and the wider 'fine countryside' of the Forest of Arden. Also: *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* - Green transport and travel link between destination sites, to contribute to one planet living.	**+** Large parts of the route follow an existing network, so much of the project will be about enhancing signage and local connections. Access enhancements for the Arden phase could be realised through HLS as Arden as is one of the target areas for this. Key opportunity to deliver a new shared use route, expanding the Sustrans Route along the canal and linking to longer distance routes such as the North Warwickshire Cycle Way. Project can be considered on a phased basis, to make implementation more manageable **-** Access negotiations, wayleaves and need to attract funding, particularly if the route is developed as a shared use route (also associated land take).
5e. New green track (shared use – foot and cycleway) on disused rail line to north of town centre, and to connect Nuneaton north east with radial route via canal. Also links to adjacent Hinckley and Bosworth GI. ***Key messages:*** Access proposals should consider equal access requirements and shared use (pedestrians/cyclists), as far as practicable, within and including the operational constraints of the flood channel. Links should be made to the town centre via the River Anker enhancements, as shown on **Figure**	**Access and recreation** Forms part of the Nuneaton urban cycle network, linking river corridor from railway station to the proposed Anker River Valley Park/parkland greenspace to the east. Key opportunity for green link to connect points of recreational focus with the public transport network. Contribution to health agenda. Enhanced urban permeability. **Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation** Through provision of safe opportunities for green travel. Also:	**+** Large part of the route already exists (subject to vegetation clearance, levelling and access/ownership negotiations) **-** Capital cost implications (substantial), need to determine ownerships – purchase negotiations and secure access agreements/rights Flood channel dictates the need for any hard surfacing to be permeable.

GI Zone		
5. Strategic and local greenways and corridors		
Vision		
A linked network of radial routes between key greenspaces, and to connect townscape and landscape. Accessible for a wide variety of users.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
4.1.	*Habitat provision and access to nature* – through management and conservation of vegetation where this and safety/usage considerations do not conflict. *Landscape setting and context* – Through interpretation of railway heritage and conservation of associated features – opportunity for themed route/interpretation.	
5f. Improved urban greenways (signage and accessibility/legibility – linked to urban greening/landscape structure) within ring road at Nuneaton and at Bedworth (MWP etc). ***Key messages:*** Access proposals should consider equal access requirements and shared use (pedestrians/cyclists), as far as practicable. Plan in advance for new larger grade street planting (of appropriate native species and cultivated forms of these) when planning for new infrastructure as part of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Masterplans, and where these can be accommodated in greenway proposals, ensuring that other infrastructure fits around this requirement and allows for long term tree growth.	**Access, Recreation and Movement** Both Nuneaton and Bedworth are well served by existing open spaces with opportunities for new spaces and improved links within each town centre. Enhancing the existing links between important town parks such as the cemetery & Miners Welfare Park in Bedworth, and George Eliot Memorial Garden and Riversley Park in Nuneaton will provide green passages through the predominantly hard urban landscapes. Appropriate signage and greening will encourage pedestrian users to frequent the important parkland destinations for activities such as recreation. Connectivity between spaces throughout the town centres will help to create greater accessibility and usability of different sites to different users. New improved links will help provide routes in and out of town to the wider loops and green network. Also: *Landscape setting and context* – Improved green links within the town centres will provide access and higher profiles to the important open spaces available whilst enhancing the existing streetscape settings as greenways. *Habitat Provision and Access to Nature* – Greater green links within the town centres will help to create microclimate variation for species as well as providing wildlife corridors. *Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation* – New greenways linking the open spaces within the built up areas of a town centre will help to act as green lungs offsetting pollution, whilst providing users with a travel alternative to	**+** Improve the circulation of the town centres, whilst raising awareness of movement between the existing open and green spaces. Urban greenways will enhance the links to wider access loops and networks across the Borough. **-** Improved green links are heavily dictated by the existing urban layout and streetscapes (and location of underground services/associated easements). Increased capital costs for a significant length of surfacing for a multi-use path, and for new signage.

GI Zone		
5. Strategic and local greenways and corridors		
Vision		
A linked network of radial routes between key greenspaces, and to connect townscape and landscape. Accessible for a wide variety of users.		
Spatial interventions – the component projects		
Project description	**Functions (justification)**	**Opportunities and constraints**
	vehicular transport for short journeys.	

5. DELIVERY AND MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. This section provides recommendations on practical delivery and on embedding green infrastructure in spatial planning within the Borough.

PRACTICAL DELIVERY, PRIORITIES AND MONITORING

5.2. Table 5.1 overleaf identifies how projects within the network have been prioritised according to the functions they can deliver, and how they can contribute to addressing any functional deficiencies by locality area, as identified in the opportunity analysis. Other considerations which have informed the prioritisation exercise are policy support, and how projects can contribute to any relevant Local Area Agreement targets. Against these are balanced considerations of capital costs and future revenue (management and governance) needs and likely funding eligibility, together with constraints to delivery such as land assembly or dependence on other work/projects. Projects are ranked in terms of likely phases in which they can be delivered, whether as mitigation in advance of development, to 2026 or in the longer term (to 2040 and beyond). For each project a series of potential partners and actions are identified.

5.3. Monitoring will be a critical part of evaluating green infrastructure proposals, in terms of whether the functions have been achieved through implementation, and to refine future iterations of the spatial plan as it relates to green infrastructure. As such table 5.1 also identifies some appropriate monitoring mechanisms in relation to projects.

Table 5.1 Project delivery and monitoring

- Projects are prioritised against the range of environmental functions they fulfil, in addition to meeting high level planning policy objectives. These draw on high level policy and strategy examples, rather than an exhaustive list;
- Project 'credits' or benefits are identified in green, and are offset against a set of identified practical considerations (shown in red), which include **indicative** levels of capital costs based on cost banding, in addition to revenue considerations in broad terms.
- Projects' functional performance has been assessed with reference to the opportunity analysis by function for the specific locality areas in which they fall;
- No weighting is assigned to specific environmental functions as they are considered equally important, and the basis of green infrastructure planning should be one of multi functionality;
- Practical considerations are not weighted (as a project may have very substantial cost implications but still deliver substantial benefits in terms of multi functionality). Prioritisation is therefore a balance, and based on judgments as to functional desirability and deliverability. Projects are also matched to potential delivery partners and appropriate monitoring mechanisms.

5.4. Cost bands (capital costs) are presented as follows:

- Low (L) = Up to £20,000
- Moderate/Low (M/L) = £20,000-75,000
- Moderate (M) = £75,000-150,000
- Moderate/high (M/H) = £150,000-750,000
- High = £750,000-5million
- Major project = £5million plus

5.5. Abbreviations: HLS – Higher Level Stewardship; EWGS – English Woodlands Grant Scheme; NE – Natural England; EA – Environment Agency; WWT – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust; Local BAP – Local Biodiversity Action Plan; HRA – Habitat Regulations Assessment; FC – Forestry Commission; EH – English Heritage.

5.6. Relevant Local Area Agreement (LAA) Indicators (from the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement or LAA), referenced in the table, are:

- NI6 Participation in regular volunteering (there may potentially be an opportunity for match funding, in relation to smaller GI projects)
- NI21 Dealing with local concerns about anti social behaviour and crime by the local council and the police
- NI56 Obesity in primary school age children in year 6
- NI175 Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling
- NI188 Adapting to climate change
- NI197 Improved local biodiversity – Active management of local sites

Local indicators:

- 8 (NI120) Increase 5 a week physical activity
- 10 (NI120) Adult participation in sport

5.7. Priorities are categorised according to timescales for delivery, based on a judgment as to the functions and benefits provided, balanced against constraints to practical achievement:

H: Should be delivered in advance of development or by 2026

M: Deliver by 2040

L: Deliver after 2040, or otherwise as smaller components earlier in the plan

5.8. Priorities may later be refined as the spatial options for the Core Strategy evolve. There may be the potential for smaller components of the proposed GI projects to be delivered through development, and this may adjust priorities in future. In a similar spirit, if projects are 'grouped' in a specific location, and start to come forward at the same time (delivery of a coherent 'micro' network), this may also elevate priority.

	BENEFITS										**PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
Zone 1: Forest of Arden landscape enhancement zone 																	
1a: **Woodland management** (Arbury and Stockingford /Bedworth North and West Locality Areas) `	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy and West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework PPS9	✓ Potential to contribute to Regional Forestry Framework (economic /regeneration benefits of peri urban forestry); Role of place in relation to economic growth (Regional Economic Strategy).	✓ PPS1; PPS7	✓ NI6, NI188, NI197	✓ Reinforce existing good level of provision; Potential ecological enhancement area as part of part of a Borough wide Ecological Network. Enhances woodland habitats identified within the Local BAP.	✓ Through diversifying fuel production through woodland management.	✓ Through diversifying fuel production through woodland management.	✓ Conserve and enhance significant landscape assets within Arbury and Stockingford locality area. Also conservation and enhancement of historic landscape character	✓ Potential for new woodland walks/access to contribute to meeting future deficit.	✓ Can occur as and when HLS agreements are entered into.	Depends on area planted, **Moderate /Low cost** per individual scheme entered into; can be largely met through HLS. There may also be the option for grants for hedgerow restoration through DEFRA's Single Farm Payment Scheme, and woodland creation grants through the Forestry Commission English Woodland Grants Scheme (EWGS). Potentially also eligible for LEADER Grant Aid from EH/DEFRA in relation to historic rural environment and local	✓ Covered in HLS and/or EWGS scheme agreement however, when entered into.	✓ Loss of productive farmland and associated loss of income offset by HLS/EWGS payments	-	**H:** This can occur substantially before 2026, to secure the landscape future of this part of Arden. Also has the potential to deliver peri urban landscape mitigation for any future developmt to the edge of Nuneaton.	NE; landowners; DEFRA, FC. Landowners to seek advice from NE and FC on the viability of HLS and EWGS schemes respectively and whether proposals can contribute to these.	Take up of HLS agreements and production of supporting required documentation; Need for Natural England to take a lead in relation to monitoring delivered scheme against components of agreement, such as Farm Environment Plans. Also need for FC to review schemes against qualifying components of any WEWGS woodland creation or management grants entered into. Habitats and species surveys to monitor species distribution and changes. Need

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
											distinctiveness..						for involvement of surveyors from voluntary organisations such as BTO/Wildlife Trust. This could be part of a liaison role for a green infrastructure officer or delivery panel (ref Project 2a) if appointed (establishing central audit trail/record, so that performance of GI network can be monitored over time). Potentially web based resource. Use of environment /attribute surveys – a condition assessment – for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197.
1b: **Arbury Gateway Park** (Arbury and Stockingford Locality Area) `	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy. Also PPS9.	✓ Role of place in relation to economic growth (Regional Economic Strategy).	✓ PPS1; PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI21, NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197	✓ Reinforced, better connected landscape structure; Potential ecological enhancement area in relation to woodland Local BAP habitat.	✓ Through traditional landscape management (parkland and wooded parkland); potential for enhanced floodrisk management (through wetland features) to meet potential future deficit.		✓ Through bringing Arden landscape closer to the town.	✓ Primary new strategic greenspace feature for Nuneaton West (lack of strategic semi natural greenspaces in this area).	✓ Can be delivered in step with phases of any new developmt which occurs on western urban fringe.	✓ Cost is **high/major project.** Need to set appropriate CIL tariff. Landscape restoration in relation to the GII* listed Arbury Park and its setting could be eligible for EH's Grants for Historic Buildings, Monuments and	✓ Need for ongoing specialised management and establishment of appropriate governance model such as Community Land Trust and/or Friends Group.	✓ Land ownership negotiations with Arbury Estate.	✓ Forms a gateway to a private and historically sensitive site – need for carefully considered design, take account of Habitat Regulations Assessment /Appropriate Assessment to ensure no indirect impacts on Ensor's Pool SAC. Need for	**H:** Deliver by 2026 as an essential piece of new community greenspace provision for growth to Nuneaton west, if growth occurs in this location.	Arbury Estate; Development companies /consortia, Groundwork, NBBC, Wildlife Trust, EH, Primary Care Trust (PCT). Potential for involvement of Sport England in relation to any active recreation /sports facility delivered as	Through site inspections as part of CIL contributions agreement, and to monitor discharge of relevant planning conditions and prior to adoption by adopting body/Trust; Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation;

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
											Designed Landscapes			detailed investigations (land survey, archaeology, ecology – Phase 1) at Feasibility Stage; Scheme is dependent on development to occur.		part of the park proposals (careful zoning would be needed in relation to this and other functions of the site). NBBC to identify greenspace requirements when sites are allocated and to be involved in subsequent negotiations and scheme development to secure environmental outcomes /functions.	Potential for Sport England 'Active Places' involvement in relation to monitoring of formal recreational provision; Ongoing habitat and species surveys/species migration surveys to identify changes to baseline over time. This could be undertaken as part of the remit of the Wildlife Trust/County Ecologist or through a green infrastructure delivery panel, if appointed; Use of management plan to achieve design intention – monitor implementation of planning conditions.
1c: **Newdigate Pit Ecology Park** (Bedworth North and West Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9	✓ Role of place in relation to economic growth (Regional Economic Strategy).	✓ PPS1; PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI21, NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197	✓ Opportunity to address deficit in accessible habitat sites. Conservation and enhancement of wetland and woodland habitats identified by the Local BAP.	✓ Elements of park (wetlands) can fulfil a flood attenuation function and meet future deficit.		✓ Opportunity to create better links to wider Arden landscape.	✓ Opportunity to meet deficit through incorporation of routes/links as part of park. Park would also act as a node or point of focus for routes such as the green track on the former Mineral Railway line (project 5c).	✓ Can be delivered in step with phases of any new developmt in this locality area.	✗ Depends of nature of scheme design. Cost is likely to be **moderate /high** to **high**, depending on final extent of scheme; Need to set appropriate CIL tariff. Given the heritage of the site, the project may be eligible for funding from the Aggregates Levy	✗ Need for ongoing specialised management and establishment of appropriate governance model such as Community Land Trust and/or Friends Group.	✗ Land ownership negotiations with Arbury Estate.	✗ Again forms a gateway to a historically sensitive site – need for carefully considered design. Need for detailed investigations (land survey, archaeology, ecology – Phase 1) at Feasibility Stage.	**M:** Functional desirability of project is recognised although other similar projects (and in closer proximity to development) may come forward earlier. However if development were to occur in this area, the project could be delivered off	Arbury Estate; Development companies /consortia, NBBC, Wildlife Trust, Groundwork; NBBC to identify greenspace requirements when sites are allocated and to be involved in subsequent negotiations and scheme development	Through site inspections as part of CIL contributions agreement, and to monitor discharge of relevant planning conditions and prior to adoption by adopting body/Trust; Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation;

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environ mental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
											Sustainability Fund (up to £350,000 for capital projects).				the back off this and priority would therefore be higher.	to secure environmental outcomes /functions.	Ongoing habitat and species surveys/species migration surveys to identify changes to baseline over time. This could be undertaken as part of the remit of the Wildlife Trust/County Ecologist or through a green infrastructure delivery panel, if appointed; Use of management plan to achieve design intention – monitor implementation of planning conditions.

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environ mental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
Zone 2: Post Industrial Discovery Zone																	
																	
2a: **Judkins Parklands** (Camp Hill and Galley Common Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; Also PPS9, with particular reference to potential for geological conservation and enhance-ment.	✓ Role of place in relation to economic growth (Regional Economic Strategy) Also potential contribution to PPS25 in light of enhanced floodrisk management.	✓ Place and character - PPS1, PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI21, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicators 8, 10	✓ Alleviate pressure on existing sites within this locality area. Possibility to become ecological Core Area, through conservation and enhancement of existing grassland and woodland (local BAP habitats).	✓ Can conserve, enhance and extend floodzone.	✓ Through appropriate zoning in community park.	✓ Potential to address lost relationship to landscape and meet functional deficit. Also potential to conserve, enhance and restore aspects of historic landscape character, enabling greater understanding, interpretation and appreciation of physical landscape and geological record.	✓ Potential to address identified deficit in accessible routes and links.	✓ Depends on land parcels being released, although project could also be delivered as a smaller scale scheme providing the same functions, and as part of a strategic scale developmt at Judkins, which may be pursued as an alternative option).	✓ **Major project.** Depending on final extent of scheme could be in the tens of millions of pounds, with remediation costs; Funding likely to come from a range of sources (co ordinate funding bids) – CIL (in relation to nearby developments), Advantage West Midlands, Sustrans, Groundwork, through Natural England via the Aggregates Levy (limited source of funding – up to £350,000 for capital projects). A smaller scale project (with lower capital costs) and delivering the same functions, could potentially be delivered earlier, as part of related development.	✓ May be significant although can also offer longer term employment potential. Need for continued management presence as part of the existing Camp Hill Friends Group.	-	✓ Review existing restoration plan for the site; need for site remediation, land, ecology and archaeological surveys and associated watching briefs; also feasibility study and local consultation.	**M:** While the project is desirable in functional terms and could form a key piece of the green infrastructure network, costs are significant. Also dependent on phased release and decontaminati on of sites. With appropriate funding and masterplan in place, the project could be delivered in phases to 2040.	County Council, NBBC and North Warwickshire District Council, Pride in Camp Hill, Advantage West Midlands, Groundwork, Natural England, SUSTRANS, developers; EH, PCT. Also Sport England in relation to any active recreational provision. Consider formation and resourcing of a green infrastructure panel to co ordinate funding bids and design development; Set tariff for developer contributions through CIL where appropriate.	Through site inspections as part of CIL contributions agreement (to monitor planning conditions) and prior to adoption by adopting body/Trust; visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys (to test changes in baseline). There may be a need for bespoke surveys for rare/threatened species within high quality areas of new habitat creation; Potential for Sport England 'Active Places' involvement in relation to monitoring of formal recreational provision; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators - use of environment

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environ mental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
																	/attribute surveys – a condition assessment – for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure project officer/delivery panel, if appointed; Use of management plan to achieve design intention – monitor implementation of planning conditions.
2b: **Long distance route Camp Hill – Hartshill Hayes** (Camp Hill and Galley Common Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy.	✓ Role of place in relation to economic growth (Regional Economic Strategy); PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ Place and character - PPS1; PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; contributes to objectives of ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI175, NI188, local indicator 8	✓ Opportunity for low key habitat creation and to link quarry sites, and therefore to alleviate potential pressure on existing habitat.	✓ Through opportunities for car free travel.		✓ Through links to wider project 2a above.	✓ Potential for enhanced links to the town centre.	✓ Could be delivered in smaller components as quarry land is released to 2026 and beyond.	✓ **High** cost, although could be delivered on a phased based and with funding from SUSTRANS, also Advantage West Midlands through Pride in Camp Hill. Urban parts of the route could be delivered through developer contributions (CIL).	✓ Continued management presence required.	- Some of the land may be offered by site operators as and when operations cease.	✓ Need for sensitive design around /adjacent to biodiversity sites; project may be dependent on the implementation of parts of project 2a; need for a signage strategy; ecological and contaminated land surveys will be required, as will a feasibility study and local consultation.	**M:** A desirable sustainable link to the town centre, although other links do exist in part. Could be delivered through quarry restoration to 2040.	County Council, NBBC and North Warwickshire District Council, Pride in Camp Hill, Advantage West Midlands, Groundwork, Natural England, SUSTRANS, PCT; Consider formation and resourcing of a green infrastructure panel to co ordinate funding bids and design	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197.

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
																development.	
2c: **Enhance canal towpath to Nuneaton South** (Abbey and Wem Brook Locality Area, also partly within Bede and Poplar and Whitestone and Bulkington)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy.	✓ Role of place in relation to economic growth (Regional Economic Strategy); PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ Place and character – PPS1; PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; contributes to objectives of ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI56, NI175, NI1888, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Potential to increase access to wetland sites to south of Nuneaton and therefore meet deficit; Potential wildlife corridor (key wetland habitat within Local BAP).	✓ Indirect, though connections to other sites (wetland sites).		✓ Enhanced setting of post industrial landscape, meet deficit. Opportunities for interpretation of post industrial archaeology /heritage.	✓ Meet potential deficit south of Nuneaton.	✓	✓ **High** cost, although could be delivered on a phased based and with funding from SUSTRANS; also from Advantage West Midlands and via Environment Agency; Redevelopment opportunities may also be able to accelerate process through funding etc. Also potential for Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funding in relation to enhanced access to historic environment.	✓ Continued management presence required, and in relation to regulation of uses of the towpath.	-	✓ Need to be mindful of sensitive design and construction in relation to biodiversity sites along canal corridor; Need for signage strategy.	**H** Strategic link enhancement, and can deliver SUSTRANS objectives in relation to the National Cycle Route. However the corridor already exists and investment may be better directed elsewhere in the short term.	British Waterways Board (BWB), Environment Agency, County Council, NBBC, Advantage West Midlands, Groundwork, Natural England, SUSTRANS, EH, PCT; Consider formation and resourcing of a green infrastructure panel to co ordinate funding bids and design development.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes against baseline, monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators. There may be a monitoring role for BWB, as part of their spatial recording and mapping of canal enhancement projects.
2d: **Midland Quarry water body** (Camp Hill and Galley Common Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	✓ Role of place in relation to economic growth (Regional Economic Strategy); Also potential contribution to PPS25 in light of enhanced floodrisk management.	✓ Place and character – PPS1; PPS7	✓ NI6, NI188, NI197	✓ Low key provision through conservation and management of existing features of the post industrial landscape, including grassland habitat (Local BAP habitat).	✓ Expanded potential for floodrisk management.		✓ Potential to create enhanced landscape setting to Nuneaton north.	✓ Address future deficit in accessible routes and links.	Main quarry basin has relatively limited potential for this, although smaller components of the proposals could be phased.	✓ **Major project.** Depending on final extent of scheme could be in the tens of millions of pounds, with remediation costs, although much of the enabling/stabilisation works have already been undertaken. Funding likely to come from a range of sources (co ordinate funding bids) – CIL, Advantage West Midlands (through Pride in Camp Hill).	✓ Particularly in relation to ongoing management presence, e.g. emphasis on health and safety considerations.	- Land already in developer ownership.	✓ Need for feasibility study and liaison with Environment Agency, in addition to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); local consultation; Depends on development to proceed.	**H** Deliver as part of a development which has already been proposed; Can form a key link to the Judkins Parkland.	Developer British Waterways Board (canal links), Environment Agency, County Council, NBBC, Advantage West Midlands, Natural England.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes against baseline, monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators; Site inspections in relation to implementation of planning conditions.
2e:	✓ Potential to		✓ Place and	✓ NI6,	✓ Potential to	✓ Meet deficit in		✓ Potential to		✓ As and	✓ **Moderate-**	✓ Ongoing	-	✓ Need for	**M**	Quarry operator,	Visitor experience and

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
Griff Quarry – site for a potential nature reserve (Abbey and Wem Brook Locality Area)	contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9 with specific reference to geological conservation		character – PPS1; PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	NI188, NI197	enhance accessibility of key site, and to link to habitats to site boundaries.	floodrisk management site through creation of expanded wetlands.		enhance landscape setting to south of Nuneaton and to make greater reference to cultural heritage - understanding the post industrial landscape. Also potential to conserve, enhance and restore aspects of historic landscape character, enabling greater understanding, interpretation and appreciation of physical landscape and geological record.		when components of the quarry are restored after it is de commission ed.	**high**, although may be higher depending on nature of scheme design. Funding could come from Natural England's Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (up to £350,000); also Advantage West Midlands and Forestry Commission for woodland restoration (through EWGS). Potential also for development funding through to CIL.	management presence required.		ecology & management study to determine the appropriate type, size and level of nature reserve. Need for liaison with other interested parties and potential future variation to planning consent (e.g. review of existing restoration scheme); Consultation with local communities; Feasibility study in relation to links along Griff Arm of the canal.	Investigate delivery as part of after use for quarry site.	County Council, NBBC, Wildlife Trust, Natural England, PCT, Groundwork; NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes against baseline, monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators; Site inspections in relation to implementation of planning conditions.

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
Zone 3: Urban waterways and wetlands zone																	
																	
3a: **Wetland management at Camp Hill – Whittleford Park/Bar Pool Valley** (Camp Hill/Galley Common Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9; Potential also to contribute to National Wetland Vision[43].	✓ PPS 25 - reduced insurance liability.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; contributes to ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI56, NI188, N197	✓ Potential to enhance existing habitat provision at Camp Hill/Galley Common (conserve enhance Local BAP habitats – wetland, [wet] woodland and grassland)	✓ Potential to address floodrisk deficit at Camphill/Galley Common.		✓ Potential to address deficiencies at Camp Hill.	✓ Key corridor at Camp Hill is maintained and enhanced.	-	✓ Relatively low cost – mainly concerned with changes in management, although enhanced entrances, gateway and car parking will increase this to **moderate /high**. Funding for enhanced shared use access may come from SUSTRANS. May also be eligible for Advantage West Midlands funding through Pride in Camp Hill.	✓ Increased management specialisation. Need for enhanced management presence.	-	✓ Need for feasibility study and detailed site investigations (land, ecology, archaeology); Potential need for liaison with Environment Agency if any management changes relate to hydrology; project needs council land managers and others to sign up to changes in landscape management; use of appropriate contractor resources to deliver enhanced management.	**H** Can occur relatively easily and in a cost effective manner; project would also deliver a range of environmental functions.	NBBC, SUSTRANS, WWT, EA; Possible future expansion of the existing Friends Group associated with Pride in Camp Hill; Liaise with SUSTRANS for funding and delivery of SUSTRANS Route, also Advantage West Midlands.	Visitor experience and user surveys habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197.
3b: **Floodplain parklands** (Abbey and Wem Brook Locality Area, and Whitestone	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties	✓ PPS 25 - reduced insurance liability.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; contributes to ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing	✓ NI6, NI56, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Potential to relieve pressures on existing sites at Abbey and Wem Brook, and to address deficit at Whitestone and	✓ Address potential flood risk management deficit at Abbey and Wem Brook, and Whitestone and Bulkington.	✓ These can be incorporated as an integral part of a new multi functional greenspace.	✓ Potential to greatly enhance landscape character and setting at Abbey and Wem Brook, and a t	✓ Potential to enhance access and avoid future deficiency at Abbey and Wem Brook.	✓ Yes, in step with phasing of developmt which may occur in this location.	✓ **High** cost (towards upper end of this band depending on extent and nature of scheme proposed, and taking account	✓ Increased management specialisation.	✓ Loss of productive farmland, land purchase required.	✓ Need for land /archaeology and ecology surveys. Also feasibility studies and local consultation to establish local	**H** If delivered in step with associated development. Can be delivered on phased basis	NBBC, WWT, NE, EA, developmt companies /consortia; SUSTRANS; Advantage West Midlands, Groundwork,	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes

[43] http://www.wetlandvision.org.uk/

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
and Bulkington)	under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; Potential also to contribute to National Wetland Vision; PPS9.		Strategy.		Bulkington.			Whitestone and Bulkington.			of land purchase etc). Funding may come from a variety of sources – developer contributions (set CIL tariff) or as part of a co ordinated bid to the RIF; also Advantage West Midlands and SUSTRANS in relation to delivery of shared use routes within the park.			need and demand, and to inform design development; liaison with consultees such as the EA; Land purchase negotiations.	to spread cost, allied to development phasing.	PCT; NBBC to identify appropriate funding streams to projects which could have wider purpose and liaise as appropriate, e.g. SUSTRANS for cycle routes, Advantage West Midlands in relation to 'green economy' and potential economic benefits of landscape setting and greenspace; NBBC to identify greenspace requirements when sites are allocated and to be involved in subsequent negotiations and scheme development to secure environmental outcomes /functions.	in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197. Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel, if appointed.
3c: **Urban river corridor – River Anker** (Abbey and Wem Brook Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional	✓ PPS 25 - reduced insurance liability, if delivered as part of a package of works to restore the river's edge, creating a more flexible floodplain environment; PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of	✓ PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; contributes to objectives of ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI56, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Potential to relieve pressures on existing sites at Abbey and Wem Brook, through enhanced access to semi natural habitats. Also conservation and enhancement of	✓ Through enhanced and more flexible management of urban stretches of the Anker.		✓ Potential to greatly enhance landscape character and setting at Abbey and Wem Brook.	✓ Potential to enhance access and avoid future deficiency at Abbey and Wem Brook, to the south of Nuneaton.	✓ Yes, as and when land becomes available through the town centre masterplan, although recognise the constraints posed by density of	✓ **High** cost, associated with land purchase etc although is likely to occur 'off the back of' infrastructure and construction projects associated with the Nuneaton masterplan (set	✓ Increased management specialisation.	-	✓ Need for land /archaeology and ecology surveys. Also feasibility studies and local consultation. Land purchase negotiations. Need for signage	**M** – in view of the fact that other good links already exist e.g. along the canal, and the high capital costs associated with demolition, clearance and hardworks.	NBBC, SUSTRANS, Advantage West Midlands, Groundwork, EA, PCT; NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
	Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	ROWIP.			Local BAP wetland habitat.					existing developmt (Note: project links to urban greening zone and urban greenway for Nuneaton town centre).	CIL tariff). Shared use route may be eligible for SUSTRANS funding. Advantage West Midlands may be a potential funding source.			strategy.	Priority may become higher if phases can be delivered concurrent with projects to deliver the Nuneaton Masterplan (such as the Bus Station redevelopmt).	with appropriate bodies.	Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel, if appointed.
3d: **Restoration and enhancement of rivers in urban parks** (Abbey and Wem Brook Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	✓ PPS 25 - reduced insurance liability, if delivered as part of a package of works to restore the river's edge, creating a more flexible floodplain environment.	✓ PPS1, PPS7	✓ NI6, NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197	✓ Potential to address accessible biodiversity deficiency at Abbey and Wem Brook. Enhance Local BAP wetland habitat.	✓ Enhanced, expanded and more flexible flood zone, through appropriate management.		✓ Address potential deficit at Abbey and Wem Brook through enhanced landscape management.	✓ Avoid potential future deficit at Abbey and Wem Brook through enhanced access links.	✓ As and when funding becomes available.	✓ **Moderate high - high** although this project could be delivered on phased basis and may be eligible for SUSTRANS funding, if a shared use route forms part of the proposals.	✓ Associated with increased specialisation in management to the river edge as part of the project. Need for ongoing management presence.	-	✓ Need for land /archaeology and ecology surveys. Also liaison with Environment Agency, feasibility studies and local consultation (including catchments available for cyclists). Land purchase negotiations.	**M** as other routes exist already e.g. along the canal. However the potential to better connect cycle routes within the town centre as part of this scheme may elevate the priority to **H.**	NBBC, SUSTRANS, WWT, EA NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Management plan; Monitoring of implementation

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
																	and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel, if appointed.
3e: **Anker Valley East – Floodplain Parklands** (Weddington and St Nicolas and Whitestone and Bulkington locality areas)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; Also potential to contribute to National Vision for Wetlands; PPS9.	✓ PPS 25 - reduced insurance liability, if delivered as part of a package of works to restore the river's edge, and associated tributary watercourses.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197	✓ Address deficiency at Weddington/St Nicolas and Whitestone and Bulkington. Conserve and enhance Local BAP wetland habitat.	✓ Potential to conserve and enhance floodzone through appropriate management.		✓ Significant potential for landscape character enhancement to be realised through this project – address deficit in relation to Weddington and St Nicolas and Whitestone and Bulkington Locality Areas.	✓ Avoid potential future deficit through enhanced access links.	✓ Yes, in step with phasing of developmt which may occur in this location.	✓ **High** Set CIL tariffs for developer contributions; also consider funding as part of a larger bid to the RIF. Potential eligibility for HLS funding and EWGS for woodland creation as part of the scheme. Also potential for funding from Advantage West Midlands.	✓ Increased management specialisation.	✓ Loss of productive farmland.	✓ Need for land /archaeology and ecology surveys. Also liaison with Environment Agency, feasibility studies and local consultation to determine local need and demand and ultimate extent in relation to potential future development. Land purchase negotiations.	**H** Deliver as essential piece of infrastructure on a phased basis in step with future development, if it occurs in this area.	NBBC, Developers, WWT, EA, NE, FC, PCT, Groundwork; NBBC project officer to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies; also set CIL tariff in relation to developer contributions; NBBC to identify greenspace requirements when sites are allocated and to be involved in subsequent negotiations and scheme development to secure environmental outcomes /functions.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel if appointed, or through the establishment of Community Land Trust/Friends Group, to

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
																	ensure long term governance.
3f: **Kerseley Wetland Park** (Bedworth North and West Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; Potential to contribute to National Vision for Wetlands; PPS9.	✓ PPS 25 - reduced insurance liability, if delivered as part of a package of works to restore the river's edge – enhanced, more flexible floodrisk management.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Meets deficit in accessible habitat sites at Bedworth North and West.	✓ Potential to conserve and enhance flood zone.	✓ Opportunity to enhance existing good levels of provision and avoid future deficit.	✓ Potential link to wider Arden landscape character, through sensitive design.	✓ Potential to link to improved network and to Bedworth town centre (need for enhanced links to and from Bedworth identified through GI opportunity analysis).	✓ Potential to deliver as part of phased developmt.	✓ **High** Set CIL tariffs for developer contributions; potential funding from Advantage West Midlands.	✓ Increased management specialisation. Need for ongoing management presence.	✓ Loss of productive farmland.	✓ Need for land /archaeology and ecology surveys. Also liaison with Environment Agency, need for feasibility study and local consultation to determine local need and demand and ultimate extent in relation to potential future development Land purchase negotiations; Project is likely to be dependent on development to occur.	**H** Deliver as essential piece of infrastructure on a phased basis in step with future development; otherwise priority is **low** (e.g. can only happen as part of development).	Development companies /consortia; NBBC, EA, WWT, NE, PCT; Set CIL tariff for developer contributions; NBBC to identify greenspace requirements when sites are allocated and to be involved in subsequent negotiations and scheme development to secure environmental outcomes /functions.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel if appointed, or through the establishment of Community Land Trust/Friends Group, to ensure long term

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
																	governance.
3g: **Bulkington Community Park** (Whitestone and Bulkington Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	✓ PPS 25 - reduced insurance liability through enhanced and more flexible floodrisk management.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Potential to address identified deficit through new habitat creation, and conservation of Local BAP grassland habitat.	✓ Potential to address deficit in relation to floodrisk management (and spaces that fulfil this function within Whitestone and Bulkington).	✓ Potential to address identified deficit in Whitestone and Bulkington.	✓ Potential for significant landscape enhancement.	✓ Potential to address future deficit if development is located in Whitestone and Bulkington.	✓ Potential to deliver as part of phased developmt.	✓ **High** Set CIL tariffs for developer contributions; potential funding from Advantage West Midlands.	✓ Increased management specialisation, and need for ongoing management presence.	✓ Loss of productive farmland.	✓ Need for land /archaeology and ecology surveys. Also liaison with Environment Agency, need for feasibility studies and local consultation to determine local need and demand and ultimate extent in relation to potential future development Land purchase negotiations; Project is dependent on development to occur.	**H** Deliver as essential piece of infrastructure on a phased basis in step with development; otherwise priority is **moderate** (e.g. can only happen as part of development, although project can still help meet identified open space deficiency as revealed in the Open Space Strategy).	Development companies /consortia; NBBC, EA, WWT, NE, PCT, Groundwork. Also for potential involvement of Sport England in relation to formal/active recreation; Set CIL tariff for developer contributions; NBBC to identify greenspace requirements when sites are allocated and to be involved in subsequent negotiations and scheme development to secure environmental outcomes /functions.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Potential for Sport England 'Active Places' monitoring in relation to formal sports provision, if included within a future scheme; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure project officer/delivery panel if appointed, or

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environ mental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
																	through the establishment of Community Land Trust/Friends Group, to ensure long term governance.
Zone 4: Urban greening zone 																	
4a: **Street tree planting** (Abbey and Wem Brook and Bede and Poplar Locality Areas – note there is also potential for urban greening to be considered in other, non town centre locations within the borough)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy.	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy.	✓ PPS1, PPS7.	✓ NI6, NI188, NI197	✓ Potential to enhance and reinforce habitat provision at Abbey and Wem Brook; and wildlife corridors which could benefit the Bede and Poplar locality area.	✓ Potential contribution of evapo - transpiration; also shading and cooling to provide microclimate.		✓ Potential to enhance largely urban landscape character of both locality areas.	✓ Potential to increase provision through new urban greenway links.	✓ As and when funding is available.	**Moderate** cost, depending on extent of new street tree planting proposed. It is recognised that larger grade or semi mature tree planting would be most viable in such locations. Potentially funded as part of larger bid to the RIF or through CIL.	✓ Increased management specialisation. Need for ongoing management presence.	-	✓ Need for surveys in relation underlying infrastructure and in relation to ecology; also need to consider sight lines in relation to highways.	**H** Can be achieved relatively easily although it is recognised that cost may be substantial in relation to relatively 'small' project. Project would provide a range of functions (added value), and can contribute to urban climate change adaptation.	NBBC; Advantage West Midlands; Highways Agency NBBC/green infrastructure project officer to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	Through parks department's landscape management (management plan). Where new street tree planting is provided within new urban extensions this can be monitored by site inspections in relation to the discharge of planning conditions.
4b: **Restoration of landscape structure to Nuneaton North (including greenspace**	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI6, NI188, NI197	✓ Considerable potential to enhance connectivity and to address potential future deficit. Conserve and enhance	✓ Potential to enhance floodplain land within greenspace and avoid future pressures and/or deficit.	✓ Potential to provide enhanced provision, of greater accessibility than exists at present, as an integral part of	✓ Considerable potential for enhanced landscape character in the Weddington and St Nicolas locality area.	✓ Potential to enhance already good levels of provision in relation to accessibility.	✓ Delivered in step with phased developmt.	✓ **High** capital costs, although can be delivered on a phased basis with development. Set CIL tariff for developer contributions.	✓ Increased management specialisation.	✓ Loss of productive farmland.	✓ Need for land /archaeology and ecology surveys. Also liaison with Environment Agency, need for feasibility studies and	**H** – if delivered with development as essential green infrastructure and community provision. Landscape	NBBC; Development companies /consortia; NE, EA, WWT, PCT (in relation to greenspace delivered as part of the	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline;

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
provision) (Weddington and St Nicolas Locality Area)	under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy.				grassland habitats identified by Local BAP.		new greenspace.	Also opportunity to respond to historic landscape character.			Shared use routes within the project may be eligible for SUSTRANS funding; also Advantage West Midlands.			local consultation to determine local need and demand and ultimate extent in relation to potential future development; Land purchase negotiations; Project is dependent on development to occur.	structure will form a framework for all greenspace components associated with potential future development. If delivered independently of development, priority would be moderate as the project would still contribute to meeting an identified open space deficiency in this area (revealed in the Open Space Strategy).	proposals); NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies; also set CIL tariff in relation to developer contributions; NBBC to identify greenspace requirements when sites are allocated and to be involved in subsequent negotiations and scheme development to secure environmental outcomes /functions.	Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel if appointed, or through the establishment of Community Land Trust/Friends Group, to ensure long term governance.

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
Zone 5: Green corridors 																	
5a: **Improved urban greenway link for Bedworth Town Centre and Miner's Welfare Park** (Bede and Poplar Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy; Regional Transport Strategy; deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of ROWIP. Potential to contribute to Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Opportunity to promote biodiversity linkages, as identified in the opportunity assessment.	✓ Urban shading and cooling.		✓ Potential to deliver urban landscape enhancement – address deficit in relation to landscape features within this locality area.	✓ Potential to enhance connectivity across the urban centre.	✓ As and when funding becomes available, to implement components of the town centre masterplan.	✓ **Moderate-high** capital costs. Could be delivered as part of larger bid to the RIF as part of the town centre masterplan, or through SUSTRANS funding for shared use route.	✓ Associated with enhanced urban greening /planting. Need for ongoing management presence.	-	✓ Need for surveys in relation to underground /overhead infrastructure and utilities; archaeological survey. Also feasibility study and local consultation to increase public awareness /understanding of management changes; Change in management within park needs support from Council Land Managers; Liaison needed with Highways Agency in relation to sight lines/health and safety.	**High.** In view of the functions which can potentially be delivered.	NBBC, Advantage West Midlands, SUSTRANS, development companies /consortia (where delivered as part of the Bedworth Masterplan), PCT, Groundwork; NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	Through parks department's landscape management (management plan), or through a Friends Group established for Miner's Welfare Park. Where new street tree planting is provided within new urban extensions this can be monitored by site inspections in relation to the discharge of planning conditions; Through audit trail established through RIF and SUSTRANS funding, if appropriate; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design.
5b: **Arden and Arbury Way** (Arbury and	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy; Regional Transport	✓ PPS1, PPS7; Deliver objectives of ROWIP; contribute to	✓ NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197				✓ Potential to enhance accessibility to wider Arden	✓ Provides enhanced accessibility as part of a radial route around	✓ As and when HLS agreements are entered	✓ **Moderate-high** capital costs, although partly offset by HLS payments	✓ Need for ongoing management presence.	✓ Partly offset by HLS payments where	✓ Need for land/ecology /archaeology surveys; also local	**Moderate** – in view of the relatively limited functional potential.	Landowners and Natural England (landowners to liaise with NE to	Through audit trail established by Natural England as part of the HLS qualifying

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Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
Stockingford Locality Area)	Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy.	Strategy; deliver objectives of ROWIP.	objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.					landscape.	Nuneaton (and 'spokes' to the town centre), as identified in the opportunity assessment.	into.	(subject to eligibility). If a shared use route is created, the project may be eligible for SUSTRANS funding.		eligible.	consultation and feasibility studies to determine routes; establish land ownership. Liaison needed between landowners and Natural England to determine nature of scheme /how it can contribute to HLS targeting for Arden.	However, much of this could also be delivered relatively easily through HLS and could link to a series of other projects and therefore have greater functional benefit, e.g. to form a wider radial route connecting key assets within the green infrastructure network. Depending on how other projects within the network were delivered, this could elevate the priority of this project.	determine viability of scheme in relation to HLS payments); SUSTRANS (if dedicated as a shared use route), PCT.	procedure – monitoring the scheme as implemented against the Farm Environment Plans which would need to be produced to qualify for funding; Also through audit trail established by SUSTRANS for funding.
5c: **New green track on old Mineral Railway Line** (Bedworth North and West Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy; Regional Transport Strategy; deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Potential to create new, accessible habitat and address deficit in Bedworth North and West. Conserve woodland habitat identified in the Local BAP.	✓ Through vegetation management and controlling run off (permeable surfaces).		✓ Respond to cultural/post industrial landscape. A key way that development could incorporate and celebrate Bedworth's urban landscape heritage.	✓ Potential to address deficit in cycleways through dedication as a shared use route.	✓ As and when funding available, although the need for a functional link from one point to another may limit the potential for phased delivery.	✓ **High** capital costs, associated with land purchase, clearance and remediation and implementation of a safe, accessible greenway route; also cost of signage and supporting strategy. May be eligible for Advantage West Midlands funding; also SUSTRANS funding if dedicated as a shared use route. Potentially also funded through	✓ Vegetation management and conservation of associated biodiversity value. Also need for ongoing management presence.	- Route already exists.	✓ Need for land/ecology /archaeology surveys; ecological mitigation strategy; also local consultation and feasibility study to determine routes; land purchase negotiations (Network Rail); need for signage strategy.	**High**, in view of the fact that much of the route exists and is likely to be available. It also links key parts of the green infrastructure network, would expand upon Nuneaton and Bedworth's green track network, and delivers a range of functions, meeting deficits identified in the opportunity	NBBC; development companies /consortia, SUSTRANS, Advantage West Midlands, PCT, Groundwork; NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
											larger bid to RIF and through off site CIL contributions (Set tariff). Also may be eligible for HLF funding in relation to enhancement of access to local heritage.				assessment.		conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel if appointed, or through the establishment of Community Land Trust/Friends Group, to ensure long term governance; Also through audit trail established by SUSTRANS for funding.
5d: **New peri urban radial greenway** (Arbury and Stockingford, Abbey and Wem Brook, Camp Hill and Galley Common, Bedworth North and West and Bede and Poplar Locality Areas)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy.	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy; Regional Transport Strategy; deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8		✓ Through opportunity for green links.		✓ Enhanced access to landscape of Arden, also enhanced links to landscape for Camp Hill and Galley Common and built up areas such as Abbey and Wem Brook/Bede and Poplar.	✓ Potential for enhancement of access links to and from Camp Hill and Galley Common.	✓ As and when HLS funding agreements are entered into for rural land.	✓ **High** capital costs, although met to a degree by HLS funding which will cover much of the rural/peri urban parts of the route. Potential for SUSTRANS funding along urban parts of the route (tie in with proposals for the canal), if dedicated as a shared use route.	✓ Need for ongoing management presence.	- Loss of productive farmland compensated through HLS; much of the urban part of the route already exists.	✓ Need for land/ecology /archaeology surveys; also local consultation and feasibility studies to determine route.	**Moderate – low** (relatively limited offer in terms of functional value), although it is recognised that smaller, higher priority projects could contribute to delivery of the greenway as a whole.	NBBC, landowners, Natural England, SUSTRANS, PCT, Groundwork; NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
																	part of consent for scheme design; Monitoring of implementation and ongoing management could fall within the remit of a green infrastructure delivery panel, or through the establishment of Community Land Trust/Friends Group, to ensure long term governance; Also through audit trail established by SUSTRANS for funding, and by Natural England for HLS schemes.
5e: **New green track on disused railway line to north of Nuneaton town centre** (Weddington and St Nicolas Locality Area)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy; Regional Transport Strategy; deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of ROWIP; contribute to objectives of Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy.	✓ NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Potential to enhance biodiversity value of an existing important corridor, whilst addressing a deficit in this locality area. Conserve and enhance woodland and grassland habitats identified by the Local BAP.	✓ Protect and enhance flood management function through appropriate, sensitive design and management.		✓ Enhanced landscape link, offering connections to wider landscape and potentially meeting deficit in Weddington and St Nicolas.	✓ Can meet potential future deficit.	✓ As and when funding is available for specific stretches.	✓ **High** capital costs (and land purchase), although necessarily low key character of the scheme and need for permeable surfaces may control cost. Potential for funding through Advantage West Midlands /SUSTRANS.	✓ Associated with vegetation and habitat management within the channel. Need for ongoing management presence.	- No land take issues as link already exists, although equal access at points may form a significant constraint.	✓ Need for land/ecology /archaeology surveys; also local consultation and feasibility study including hydrological surveys /modelling and local level floodrisk assessment; Also liaison with Environment Agency. Proposals must not interfere with flood management /control function. Design should	**High** - to connect railway station and town centre to future urban extensions. Integral part of the local green transport network, and also in view of opportunities for biodiversity and access to nature.	NBBC, SUSTRANS, Advantage West Midlands, Environment Agency, PCT, Groundwork; NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Monitoring by LPA in relation to performance by Local Area Agreement indicators for SINC sites, to monitor biodiversity management in relation to NI197; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning

	BENEFITS										PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS						
Project	**Examples of high level policy/strategy support**			**LAA indicat-ors**	**Environmental Functions**					**Phased delivery?**	**Capital costs/ funding eligibility**	**Ongoing revenue needs**	**Land take, assembly and access**	**Other logistical issues and constraints**	**Priority and qualifying notes**	**Partners and actions**	**Suggested monitoring**
	Environmental	**Economic**	**Social**		**Habitat provision and access to nature**	**Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation**	**Productive landscapes**	**Landscape setting and context (including historic environmt)**	**Access recreation and movement**								
														be low key in character, reflecting biodiversity interest and other key function of flood control.			conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Also audit trail established by SUSTRANS if project is eligible for SUSTRANS funding.
5f: **Improved urban greenways to Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres** (Abbey and Wem Brook and Bede and Poplar Locality Areas)	✓ Potential to contribute to European Landscape Convention and LPA Biodiversity duties under NERC Act; also Regional Biodiversity Strategy; PPS9.	✓ Role of place in relation to Regional Economic Strategy; Regional Transport Strategy; deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ PPS1, PPS7; Regional Transport Strategy; Deliver objectives of ROWIP.	✓ NI56, NI175, NI188, NI197, local indicator 8	✓ Potential opportunities to increase urban biodiversity, linkages as identified in the opportunity assessment.	✓ Urban shading and cooling.		✓ Potential to enhance urban landscape (relative deficit of landscape features within the town centres).	✓ Potential to enhance links within Bedworth town centre, as identified in the opportunity assessment.	✓ As and when funding is available through the town centre masterplans. Could be funded as part of a wider bid to the RIF or through Advantage West Midlands in delivering town centre enhancements as part of the town masterplans.	✓ **Moderate - High** capital costs, depending on extent of works proposed (level of planting, surfacing, also need for a signage strategy). Funding may be available from RIF/Advantage West Midlands, as part of a package of measures to deliver town centre improvements, or via SUSTRANS if routes are dedicated for shared use.	✓ A level of management is associated with new urban landscape proposals which may delivered as part of this project.	✓ Depending on options identified in feasibility studies; may come off the back of redevelopmt of some town centre sites.	✓ Need for land/ecology /archaeology surveys; also local consultation, feasibility study and user survey; also signage strategy.	**High** – to enhance connections to and legibility of, town centres. Depending on the approach taken, proposals could be high or low key e.g. concerned simply with enhanced signage and some new landscape planting. As such they may be able to be achieved relatively easily as part of the town masterplans.	NBBC, Advantage West Midlands, SUSTRANS, PCT; NBBC to scope appropriate funding streams and make links with appropriate bodies.	Visitor experience and user surveys post implementation; habitat and species surveys to test changes in baseline; Site inspections in relation to discharge of any planning conditions as part of consent for scheme design; Also audit trail established by SUSTRANS if project is eligible for SUSTRANS funding.

Funding streams: Sources of further information

These references are in addition to other funding streams which may be used by the Council in relation to other infrastructure projects such as Advantage West Midlands, the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):

LEADER (2007-20013) Schemes administered by English Heritage and DEFRA: www.defra.gov.uk/rural/rdpe/leader.htm;

English Woodland Grant Schemes in respect of woodland creation, management and restoration, administered by the Forestry Commission: www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs;

Higher Level Stewardship Schemes administered by Natural England: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/hls/default.aspx;

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund administered by Natural England (applications for 2009 currently closed although likely to re open in financial year 2010/11, although the scheme is often heavily over subscribed): http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/funding/alsf.aspx;
English Heritage: Grants for Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscapes: http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.001002002003001;

Heritage Lottery Fund (Parks for People): http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/HowToApply/

EMBEDDING THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS IN SPATIAL PLANNING

5.9. In order to ensure that green infrastructure is implemented in Nuneaton and Bedworth in the most effective way it will be vital that planning policy takes on board the findings and recommendations of this Green Infrastructure Plan. A large number of competing issues have to be addressed by plan makers, those assessing the plan (SA/SEA practitioners) and consultees in the plan preparation process. In order to aid this process we have set out below the key points from this Green Infrastructure Plan that Planning Policy can take into consideration. We have focused on the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Development Framework (LDF) process in this section.

Sustainable Community Strategy

5.10. A Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is a set of goals and a plan of actions to improve the quality of life and services in the area. The SCS should act as an umbrella for all other strategies devised for the local area including the Local Development Framework which should be a spatial representation of the SCS.

5.11. The recent government guidance on SCSs [44] has broadened their remit beyond purely economic and social issues and states that they should also contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK. In order to achieve this, the environment will need to be taken into consideration to a much greater extent than before.

5.12. Therefore, in order for green infrastructure to be embedded in Nuneaton and Bedworth's planning system it is essential that the SCS includes actions on green infrastructure. The inclusion of green infrastructure will also help to ensure that the SCS fulfils its new requirements and helps contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

5.13. The SCS will be drawn up by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The LSP currently does not include any organisations that represent the environment and this situation may need to be reviewed in order to ensure that green infrastructure and sustainability are effectively championed. However, many of the existing organisations on the LSP may have a role, and an interest, in promoting and delivering green infrastructure through improvements to health, tackling crime and creating an environment in which people want to live and work therefore attracting businesses to the area.

5.14. Along with the use of a green infrastructure approach in the way the green space in the Borough is managed and planned there are a couple of other key non spatial issues for green infrastructure in the Borough that the SCS could usefully include policies on:

- Improve the quality of existing green infrastructure in the Borough (raised as a key issue at the 22/06/09 workshop, see **Appendix 5**).

[44] DCLG 2008 **Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities – Guidance on LSP, SCS & LAA**

- Reduce the barriers to use of existing green infrastructure in the Borough –raise awareness of and information about existing green infrastructure and encourage its use (raised as a key issue at the 22/06/09 workshop, see **Appendix 5**).

Local Development Framework

5.15. It is intended that this Green Infrastructure Plan will form part of the evidence base for Development Plan Documents (DPDs) in the Local Development Framework and for green infrastructure issues to be included and addressed in the Development Plan Documents. In order for any policies that deal with green infrastructure to be found to be 'sound' when going through public examination they will have to comply with the three tests:

- **To be Consistent with National Policy**; a green infrastructure approach is clearly advocated by national policy (see **Appendix 2** - Policy review).
- **To be Justified**; evidence needs to be provided to prove why it is justified for there to be a green infrastructure policy (why something is being proposed and that there is a problem or a need)[45] (see Key Issues at Chapter 3).
- **To be Effective**; where a policy proposes tackling a green infrastructure issue there is a need to ensure that the mechanism for tackling the issue will be effective and that there is some basis for taking this course of action.

5.16. The tests of soundness point to the need for a clear link between policy formulation and the evidence that has been gathered. PPS12 Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning states that in order to be justified a DPD needs to be founded on a robust and credible evidence base which has involved evidence of participation of the local community and others who have a stake in the area; and research/fact finding to back up choices made in the plan. The process that has been undertaken in preparing the Green Infrastructure Plan means that the requirements for research and participation have been met and the problems, needs and barriers to delivery with regard to green infrastructure have been identified.

5.17. PPS12, the Planning Inspectorate[46] and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)[45] all give more detail on what is meant by effectiveness and the Green Infrastructure Plan has sought to ensure that all these aspects have been addressed through the development of the Plan. A thorough review of national, regional and local planning policy has been undertaken as part of the Plan (See **Appendix 2**) to ensure that there are no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery for any proposed recommendations. The Green Infrastructure Strategies and Plans of neighbouring authorities have been reviewed to avoid inconsistencies between this plan and that of neighbouring authorities. A robust and transparent methodology has been used to ensure that proposed solutions are clearly linked to addressing issues and needs identified in the evidence base. Efforts have been made, through a series of measures such as workshops and meetings with delivery partners, to make sure that proposed solutions (see Chapter 4) are deliverable, flexible and that delivery partners are

[45] Planning Advisory Service 2008 **Local Development Frameworks: Evidence Base**
[46] The Planning Inspectorate 2008 **Local Development Frameworks: Examining Development Plan Documents – Soundness Guidance**

signed up to them. Suggestions for monitoring have also been included in the Plan (see table 5.1).

5.18. To aid plan makers, those assessing the plan (SA/SEA practitioners) and consultees to successfully embed green infrastructure into the DPD process, some of the key findings of the Green Infrastructure Plan that are relevant to planning policy have been reproduced in the sections below.

Evidence Base

5.19. Although the Green Infrastructure Plan is to be included as part of the evidence base for the LDF process there may be a need and benefit to including or referring to parts of the characterisation work undertaken for this Plan in other LDF supporting documents such as Sustainability Appraisal baselines. The following may be useful:

- An overall justification for following a Green Infrastructure approach is provided in Chapter 1.
- The policy review provided in **Appendix 2** may provide useful information for any Sustainability Appraisal Plans, Policies and Programme reviews. It may also be helpful for those carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal to check whether LDF policies are in line with national, regional and local policy.
- Background information of environmental characterisation can be found in Chapter 3 of the Plan.
- Key green infrastructure issues are set out by topic in Chapter 3. These issues should be used by plan makers, SA practitioners and consultees to identify what the broad green infrastructure (and environmental) issues are in the Borough.
- The assessment of need for accessible green space (ANGSt) in the Borough is given in Chapter 2, paras 2.11 – 2.24, **Figures 2.2 – 2.5**.
- The functional Green Infrastructure needs of the 7 neighbourhoods in the Borough are set out in Chapter 3, paras 3.95 - 3.135.
- Chapter 4 sets out the proposed green infrastructure network and supporting projects. This may be useful for plan makers when they are developing policies, and for SA practitioners and Consultees when reviewing policies to help ensure options have been presented that take full advantage of potential opportunities and are most likely to help solve current and future problems.

Core Strategy

5.20. The Core Strategy is the key document in the LDF and sets out the vision and strategic spatial objectives for the spatial development of the Borough. It will outline what the Borough will look like in 2026, how this will be achieved and guide where development should take place in the Borough. Key points for the Core Strategy to take into consideration are:

5.21. **Need for a Large Open Space (Country Park) in the Borough.** There is a significant deficit in larger scale publicly accessible green space (sites over 100 ha) in the borough (Chapter 2, para 2.19). There is a need to promote the provision of

large scale spaces both over 100ha and over 500ha in size within 5 and 10km respectively of housing in the Borough. It may be necessary to look at providing this provision jointly with neighbouring boroughs, however the Borough does have significant areas of derelict land and potentially contaminated sites that could be used for this purpose which would have significant benefits in terms of landscape as well.

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): 1b, 1c, 2a, 3a, 3b.

5.22. **Small greenspaces for Bulkington and south of the M6**. There is a need for smaller accessible greenspace sites (of over 2 and 20ha) in Bulkington village and to the south of the M6 (Chapter 2, para 2.21).

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): 3f, 3g.

5.23. **Creation of Wetland**. Bede and Poplar and Whitestone and Bulkington have significant areas within the flood risk zone (see Chapter 3 and **Figure 3.3**). The Core Strategy should include a policy on protecting existing areas of flood risk from development and exploiting these areas for multi-functional use by designating these as public open spaces which are managed for the benefit of wildlife as well as flood attenuation. This would provide the policy 'hook' for any future wish to develop open spaces in these areas whilst reinforcing and elaborating on national policy protecting flood risk areas from development.

5.24. Efforts should be made to actively 'design in' these flood risk areas into any new development. For example, Bede and Poplar and Whitestone and Bulkington have significant areas within the flood risk zone and would also benefit from additional open space, especially if new development is to occur in these areas. Therefore policy wording in the Core Strategy should go beyond avoiding development in areas of flood risk but actively seek to include these areas as publicly accessible open spaces that can enhance surrounding developments.

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g.

5.25. **Sustainable Water Management**. Abbey and Wem Brook and Camp Hill and Galley Common both have areas of existing development that are covered by the flood risk zones. Existing and future development in these areas would benefit from the implementation of SuDS management techniques and therefore policy wording in the Core Strategy should emphasise the adoption of sustainable water management techniques along with energy efficiency and more general sustainable building methods.

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): 1c, 2d, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g.

5.26. **Increase Corridors for Wildlife and People.** The Borough is crossed by numerous canals, rivers, railway lines and a relatively extensive PROW network. Policies in the Core Strategy should recognise the potential of these resources not only to achieve accessibility goals but also to provide biodiversity habitats, access to nature opportunities and landscape enhancement. Policies on promoting modal shift and increased walking and cycling need to also promote the multifunctional benefits that these walking and cycling routes can provide as well as seeking to ensure that green spaces have provision for non motorised vehicular access to and around them.

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): 1a, 2b, 2c, 2e (part) 3c, 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f.

5.27. **Nature Conservation Management**. Nuneaton and Bedworth already has a good Green Infrastructure network. There is a significant opportunity to manage existing sites for nature conservation and core strategy policies should highlight the need to manage all spaces for the benefit of nature conservation.

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): All.

5.28. **Habitat Provision and Access to Nature.** Habitat provision on the east side of the Borough (Weddington and St Nicolas and Whitestone and Bulkington) is poor along with people's access to it. On the west side of the Borough (around Arbury and Stockingford in particular) there is good habitat provision although here to there is poor public access to it. Therefore Core Strategy policies should focus on opening up access to greenspaces and creating new opportunities for the public to access nature throughout the Borough. Habitat provision and quality should be improved throughout the Borough but particularly to the eastern side of the Borough.

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): Most of the proposed projects (refer to table 5.1), with particular reference to those on the eastern side of the Borough – 3b, 3e, 3g, 4b.

5.29. **Local Production of Food.** The east and south of the Borough have deficiencies in productive landscapes and if new development were to be located in these areas then these deficits could increase. Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough and improve the health of the population would benefit from the safeguarding of existing productive landscapes and the planning in of space for communities to grow their own food, especially in new developments using new and innovative models.

Relevant GI projects (Figure 4.1): 1b, 3b, 3f, 3g, 4b.

5.30. **Creating a Sense of Place**. The east side of the Borough have the least interest in terms of cultural heritage and landscape. Efforts need to be made to enhance, restore and manage the landscape and if new development is to be located on this side of the Borough this presents an opportunity to create a distinctive and sustainable community which should be reflected in the Core Strategy policies.

Relevant projects (Figure 4.1): All., with particular reference to those on the eastern side of the Borough – 3b, 3e, 3g, 4b,

5.31. **Improving Connectivity**. Policies also need to ensure that there is better connectivity between walking and cycling routes linking in to both town centres from surrounding areas (see Chapter 3 Para 3.78). The creation of new walking and cycling access routes should focus on linking the railway stations to other longer distance routes, in Nuneaton possibly using the river corridors which converge on the centre.

Relevant projects (Figure 4.1): 2b, 2c, 3a, 3c, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f.

5.32. **High Quality Walking and Cycling Routes.** The Borough is already well served by walking and cycling routes, but stakeholders (*See* **Appendix 5** for Workshop comments) felt that the maintenance of these routes was poor and that they were

under used as signage and information about the routes was lacking. The Core Strategy should promote improved maintenance, signage and information (including the use of Smarter Choice methods to break down barriers to usage) of these routes and encourage modal shift. Any Development Management policies in the Core Strategy should ensure that the use of S.106 agreements is encouraged for not only the creation but also the maintenance of walking and cycling routes.

Relevant projects (Figure 4.1): 2b, 2c, 3a, 3c, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 5f.

Nuneaton & Bedworth Town Centres

5.33. Opportunities should be sought to improve accessibility and ensure high quality and safe town centres. There is a significant opportunity for both town centres, through green infrastructure, to create a high quality town centre environment that encourages people to live, work and visit them; that is easily accessible; and where there is a high perception of safety. Options for future spatial planning in the town centres should incorporate aspects of the Green Infrastructure Plan, for example:

- Creating Space. The centre of Bedworth would benefit from an increase in small scale publicly accessible space of between 2 and 20ha in size (Chapter 2, para 2.23).

- Sustainable Water Management. The neighbourhood of Abbey and Wem Brook contain existing development that are covered by floodrisk zones. Additional development in the neighbourhood may exacerbate this problem further (see Chapter 3). Therefore the implementation of SuDS management techniques through Nuneaton town centre should be promoted, especially making use of Riversley Park, reinstating areas of functional floodplain breaking out rivers in culverts and restoration of more 'naturalistic' edge profiles.

- Local Production of Food. Abbey and Wem Brook neighbourhoods may benefit from an increase in provision of productive landscapes (see Chapter 3, para 3.118 and chapter 4). Due to constraints in available land, innovative methods may need to be used to introduce productive landscapes into the town centres. Options that seek to enhance the quality of the environment in Nuneaton town centre to attract people to live in and visit it could use the inclusion of productive landscapes (such as growing fruit trees along streets and implementing fruit and vegetable borders along areas that are currently hard surfaced or grassed over). This would not only have the obvious environmental benefits but locating such activities in the town centre would also promote and encourage productive landscapes throughout the Borough and could become a cultural feature of the area helping to reinforce the importance of local food production and the benefits in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and healthy eating.

- Improve Connectivity. Policies also need to ensure that there is better connectivity between walking and cycling routes linking in to both town centres from surrounding areas (see Chapter 3 Para 3.78). The creation of new walking and cycling access routes should focus on linking the railway stations to other longer distance routes, in Nuneaton possibly using the river corridors which converge on the centre. Policy wording on improving access to and around the

town centres should also recognise the multifunctional value that these routes can have, in terms of also creating wildlife corridors and improving the townscape, providing urban cooling etc.

EMBEDDING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

5.34. The green infrastructure zones, component projects and the key messages identified in Chapter 4 form a basis for evaluating future development proposals against the proposed green infrastructure network, and to ensure that they contribute to the desired environmental outcomes and functions. A model process for ensuring that green infrastructure is embedded in development management, and that appropriate account is taken of green infrastructure recommendations, is set out in **Figure 5.1**. A standardised approach to the design and implementation of a generic green infrastructure development project is shown in the central column of this figure, with respective responsibilities of the applicant and the Borough Council, as they relate to GI, shown to the left and right hand sides respectively.

5.35. **Figure 5.1** is designed to assist Development Management officers and planning applicants ensure that green infrastructure is embedded in the scheme design from the outset, as part of the development process. The diagram can be applicable to any scale of proposed development. The starting point is to identify the green infrastructure zone in which a specific site lies and whether it relates to, can contribute to or affects any proposed projects. Reference should be made to the key messages for the relevant projects e.g. the important green infrastructure assets and links to conserve and enhance, and this should be used as a starting point for site planning and design – a 'greenprint' or a green infrastructure led basis for masterplanning, to ensure that green infrastructure assets are considered and protected from the first.

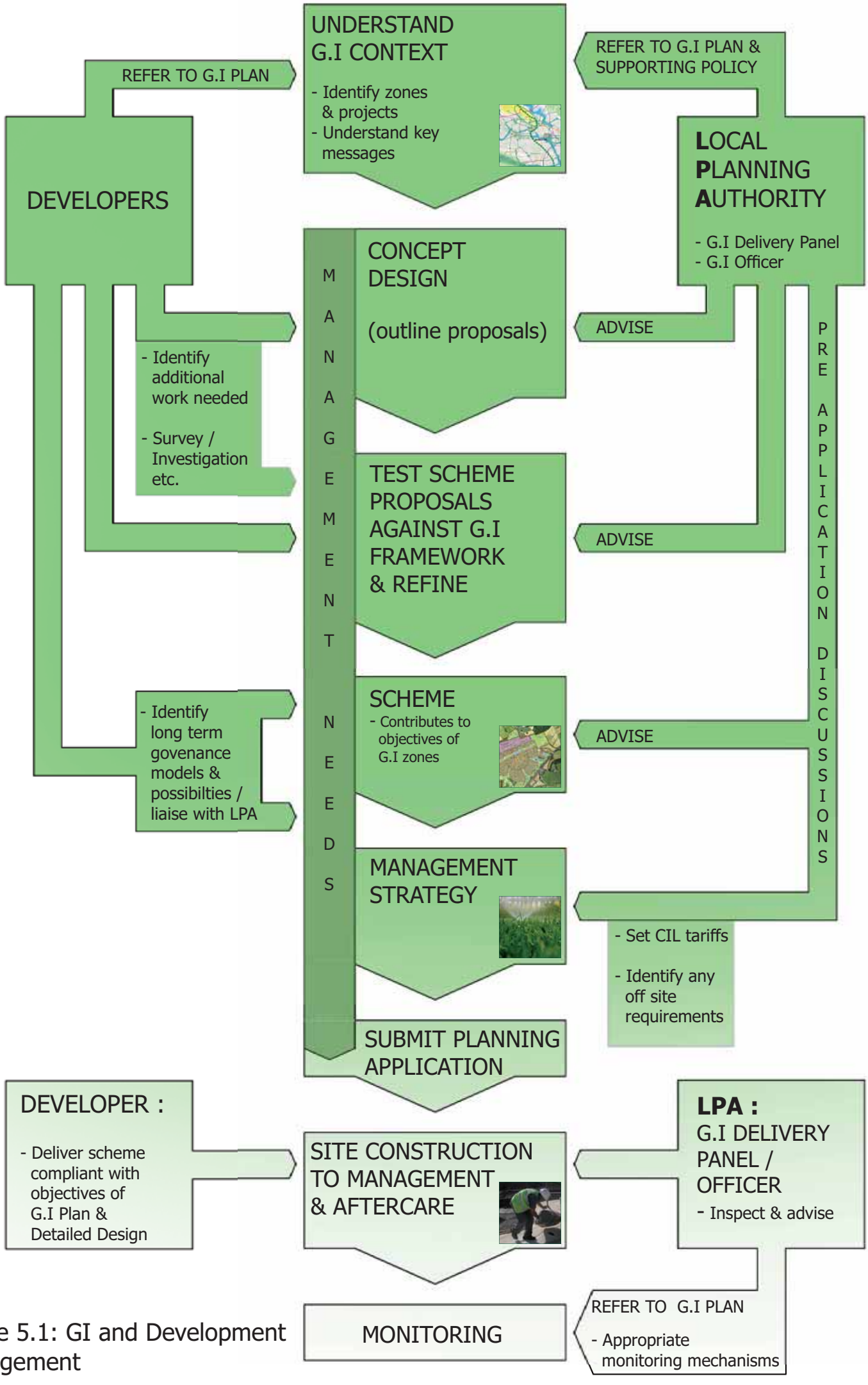


Figure 5.1: GI and Development Management

NEXT STEPS

5.36. The following steps/alternatives are recommended in order to take forward green infrastructure delivery within the Borough:

- Creation of a dedicated Green Infrastructure Delivery Officer role (potentially provided through Growth Area Funding);
- Convene a Green Infrastructure Advisory and Delivery Panel, consisting of officers from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and representatives from Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

5.37. Possible responsibilities for a nominated officer or project group/panel in relation to green infrastructure delivery, are as follows:

- Actively promote green infrastructure, liaising with key members of the Local Strategic Partnership (in terms of environment and recreation), to ensure that green infrastructure contributes to the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework;
- Identify appropriate opportunities to promote, advertise and brand key projects or those with an important community and regeneration focus, to engender greater public support and ownership, as well as embedding positive informal management/stewardship, in addition to any more formal management structures identified;
- In this context, advise and assist a nominated green infrastructure 'champion', who should ideally be a relevant Council member, to ensure greater potential for 'buy in' from members;
- Provide constructive advice to the Council as it seeks to deliver green infrastructure. The points below relate to this aim in particular;
- Develop a checklist by which proposals can be evaluated in relation to green infrastructure. Possible components of such a checklist are set out under 'Potential future work', at the end of this section;
- Evaluate development proposals as they relate to green infrastructure against green infrastructure zones and component projects in the Green Infrastructure Plan;
- Identification of constraints, challenges and potential conflicts of interest in relation to practical delivery, making early links with appropriate bodies (e.g. in relation to ecological advice and flood risk etc);
- As a consultee, comment on relevant planning applications through the pre application and application processes, using the checklist and key messages set out in the supporting Green Infrastructure Information Pack;
- Ensure that developers and others bringing forward green infrastructure not only take account of the key messages in relation to the green infrastructure zones

and component projects, but that they also identify sustainable, resourced mechanisms for long term governance to deliver design intentions and desired environmental outcomes;

- Make appropriate links with future funding partners identified within the prioritisation exercise, in relation to co ordination of funding bids, and also in making links with adjacent authorities for projects on the authority boundary, or that share common objectives with those in adjacent GI Strategies;

- Liaise with the relevant Local Strategic Partners, noting and using where appropriate existing processes that may be of relevance to GI delivery, for reasons of efficiency and avoiding duplication of work;

- Liaison with appropriate community representatives in the formation of Friends Groups, where this is identified as an appropriate long term governance mechanism;

- Develop appropriate consultancy briefs for masterplanning and detailed design services in relation to the first projects (and which are to be delivered in large part by the Council) within the shortlist, making appropriate reference to key messages contained within table 4.1;

- Create an audit trail of appropriate monitoring mechanisms in relation to green infrastructure delivery, making use of existing tools such as site inspections to adoption, and visitor surveys. The purpose should be to monitor performance of the green infrastructure proposals in relation to the environmental functions, to inform and refine future iterations of the spatial plan for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough;

- With the Council, convene regular updates, meetings and opportunities for progress reporting during the life of the GI Plan and wider spatial plan, to disseminate results, good practice and lessons learned.

Potential future work

GI checklist in relation to Development Management and planning applications

5.38. In addition to the general pointers shown on Figure 5.1, this could cover the following subject areas:

- Sense of place: Landscape and historic character, setting and landscape management;

- Biodiversity, habitat protection and access to nature;

- Sustainable resource management and climate change adaptation (including water and flood management and opportunities for microclimate creation);

- Healthy and cohesive communities (Access for all, provision of activities for varied ages and interest/user groups);

- Choices for responsible travel;

- Sustainable design and project specifications (construction techniques, locally sourced materials and plant material).

GI Design Guide

5.39. This could take the form of accessible, concise, written and illustrated design principles aimed and developers and to inform Development Management Officers in evaluating planning applications in terms of green infrastructure. The aim with such a document should be to ensure that the most positive consideration is given to GI planning, design and management, from the outset of the development process.

Appendix 1: Approach

APPENDIX 1: APPROACH

1. Our approach to preparing this Green Infrastructure Plan is given below. The table gives an overview of the stages and tasks involved.

Project Stages and Tasks

Project Stage	***Tasks***
Baseline, context issues and opportunity analysis by function	*Policy review - Future growth and development in the Borough and surrounding areas identified.* *Data collection and collation* *Mapping analysis – Current green infrastructure assets identified and described.* *Meeting with stakeholders to validate baseline information* *Interpretation of ANGST and local greenspace standards* *Identification of green infrastructure opportunities by function and locality area*
Green infrastructure network	*Analysis of opportunities by environmental theme and function* *Initial themes exploration* *Site visit to test themes and develop proposed green infrastructure network; development of supporting GI project recommendations* *Consultation with stakeholders to refine proposals*
Delivery and monitoring framework	*Project prioritisation and monitoring recommendations* *Meeting with stakeholders to refine recommendations and to get buy in to progress green infrastructure in the future* *Development of recommendations to embed green infrastructure in spatial planning and development management processes*
Reporting & Plan preparation	*Draft and final reports prepared* *Presentation to members and client team*

Appendix 2: Legislative and Planning Policy Context

APPENDIX 2 – LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

BIODIVERSITY

1. The **Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994** transposes the requirements of European Directives such as the Habitats Directive (1992) and Birds Directives (1979)[1] into UK law, enabling the designation of protected sites and species at a European level. The UK government is also a signatory to the Convention on Wetlands 1971 (the **Ramsar Convention**) enabling the designation of wetland sites of international conservation importance (Ramsar sites). Sites designated under the Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas - SPAs), the Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservation - SACs) and Ramsar sites are collectively referred to as Natura 2000 sites.

2. The **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981** (as amended) forms the key piece of UK legislation relating to the protection of habitats and species. The **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000** provides additional support to the 1981 Act, for example, increasing the protection of select reptile species. Specific protection for badgers is provided by the **Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)** may be designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as sites fulfilling a nature conservation function and/or ecological education role, defined at the district level.

3. The **Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006** requires the Secretary of State, under **Section 41** (S41), to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England (this translates as BAP listed species and habitats[2] – *see below*). The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under **Section 40** of the NERC Act; to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

4. The Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities (2006) directs local authorities to adopt national indicators against which their performance will be measures by central Government. Of direct relevance to biodiversity is **National Indicator 197 (NI 197)***: Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved.* This indicator has been adopted by Warwickshire County Council and is applicable to all Borough and District councils within Warwickshire.

[1] Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, respectively.

[2] Natural England **Habitats and species of principal importance in England** [on-line] http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx (accessed March, 2009).

5. **Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9): Biodiversity and Geological Conservation**[3] and accompanying DEFRA Circular 01/2005[4] seek to ensure all planning policies and decisions should aim to maintain and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, with the intention that harm to these resources shall be prevented. Additional emphasis is placed on habitats and species not subject to specific legal protection, such as BAP priority habitats and species, landscape features of importance for wildlife as corridors or stepping stones for movement, and local wildlife sites.

6. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands[5] contains the following policy relevant to biodiversity conservation:

Policy QE7: Protecting, managing and enhancing the Region's Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Resources states that all local authority plans and programmes should prioritise the protection and enhancement of specific species and habitats of international, national and sub-regional importance (including legally protected species and Biodiversity Action Plan [BAP] species and habitats). It also promotes plans and programmes which take a 'common approach to nature conservation' crossing administrative boundaries.

Restoring the Region's Wildlife: Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands, (2005) identifies a significant decline in the region's biodiversity over the last few decades and sets out a number of challenges to reverse this trend. It also outlines potential linkages between biodiversity and other land uses and functions such as agriculture, tourism and health.

Growing Our Future – The West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework 2004. One of the frameworks aims is to strengthen urban – rural links and to see woodland and forestry more successfully embedded in wider urban and rural agendas, particularly in urban fringe areas. The framework sees a special feature of forestry in the West Midlands (compared to other regions) as the extensive network of hedgerows, street trees, orchards, veteran trees, parklands, traditional woodland estates and ancient woodlands. It promotes the use of trees as one of the main tools in urban regeneration and greening programmes as well as using trees to provide ecosystem and other 'social' services. It also promotes the realisation of the potential for creating woodlands along transport corridors. Action RT4 encourages the take up of opportunities for long term public access to woodlands – identifying areas where there are opportunities for increased access and interpretation and linking woodlands with other public access land.

WATER RESOURCES AND FLOODING

Planning Policy Statement 25: Planning and Flood Risk (2006) This Planning Policy Statement sets out policies on development and flood risk. A main aim is to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at every stage throughout the planning process. This would prevent development in areas at risk of flooding and direct new

[3] Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now DCLG) 2005 **Planning Policy Statement 9: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation***

[4] Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now DCLG) 2005 **Government circular: Biodiversity and geological conservation – statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system.** ODPM Circular 06/2005. [on-line] http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147570.pdf (accessed February 2009).

[5] Government Office for the West Midlands 2008 **The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands**

projects to safer areas. However, if developments must go ahead in areas of high risk, this policy aims to make them safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and if possible reducing flood risk overall.

Water Resources for the Future – A Summary Strategy for the Midlands Region (Environment Agency, 2001) The Strategy aims to improve the environment, while allowing enough water for human uses. The strategy looks 25 years ahead, considering the many changes that may occur over this time. It shows that water is not readily available to support additional abstractions from the majority of rivers in the Midlands during the summer months. Exceptions include parts of the Leicestershire Soar, Tame and main River Trent where there is additional water available just to the north and west of Nuneaton and Bedworth. However, there is scope for winter abstraction from most of the rivers in the Midlands. The area to the north of Coventry is currently experiencing unsustainable or unacceptable levels of groundwater abstraction.

West Midlands Regional Flood Risk Appraisal (2007) WMRA. The appraisal identified that apart from the headwaters of the River Anker which flow through Nuneaton, there are no rivers of any significance in the Borough. The LPA considers that there are no significant locations in the Borough which are not defended against flooding to a satisfactory standard.

Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Boroughs SFRA (2008). One of the recommendations for policy considerations is to enhance and restore the river corridor. This would include assessing the condition of existing assets (e.g. culverts, river walls). Any refurbishment and /or renewal of the asset should ensure that the design life is commensurate with the design life of the development. Development contributions should be sought for this purpose. Those proposing development should look for opportunities to undertake river restoration. Further culverting should be avoided and new developments with culverting running through their site should seek to de-culvert rivers for flood-risk management and conservation benefits.

Another objective in the SFRA includes protecting Greenfield functional flood plain from future development and reinstate areas of functional floodplain which have been developed. Opportunities should also be sought to make space for water and to accommodate climate change and also space should be specifically set aside for SuDS and used to inform the overall site layout.

Nuneaton and Bedworth SFRA (2008). This recommends that detailed/local level Flood Risk Assessments are undertaken by those proposing development in flood zones 2 and 3a, as defined in PPS25.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: The UK Programme (Defra, 2006) The Climate Change Programme is designed to guide the UK to reaching emissions targets set by the Kyoto Protocol of a 12.5% reduction on the base year, over the period 2008-2012. It also aims to move the UK towards domestic targets of reducing carbon dioxide levels to 20% below 1990 levels, by 2010, with a longer term target of a 60% reduction by 2050.

FOOD AND FUEL PRODUCTION

EC Directive regarding renewable energy (2001/77/EC) (2001) The purpose of this Directive is to promote an increase in the contribution of renewable energy sources to electricity production in the internal market for electricity and to create a basis for a future Community framework thereof.

Meeting the energy challenge: A white paper on energy (Defra, 2007) Includes a number of objectives including to put ourselves on a path to cutting CO2 by 60% by 2050;

- To maintain reliability of energy supply;
- Promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond;
- Ensure every home is adequately and affordably heated;
- Save 20% of energy consumption through improved energy efficiency by 2020;
- Binding target of a 20% share of renewable energies in overall EU consumption by 2020;
- Implementation of energy saving and efficiency measures could reduce carbon emissions by 30-35% by 2020.

Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (2002) Includes objectives to:

- Create policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources;
- Set out criteria applied in assessing applications for planning permission. The Government may intervene where it considers constraints proposed by local authorities too great or poorly justified;
- The wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining planning permission;
- Avoid assumptions about the technical or commercial feasibility of renewable energy projects, due to pace of technological changes;
- Planning authorities should not reject planning applications simply because the level of output is small;
- Promote knowledge and greater acceptance by the public of renewable energy developments. Developers should engage in active consultation with local communities at an early stage.

West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy (2004). The strategy aims to make the West Midlands the most energy efficient region in the UK. It focuses on meeting the challenge on climate change in a way that strengthens and benefits the region's economy. The West Midlands currently causes 10% of the UK's total emissions.

PLACE AND CHARACTER

European Landscape Convention (COE, 2000) The Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and relates to natural, urban and suburban areas, whether on land, water or sea. It therefore concerns not just remarkable landscapes but also ordinary everyday landscapes and blighted areas. The European Landscape Convention introduced the concept of "landscape quality objectives" into the protection, management and planning of geographical areas.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) This PPG sets out government policies for the identification and protection of Conservation Areas, historic buildings and other elements of the historic environment. The guidance notes the 'stewardship' role local authorities have to play in maintaining the historic landscape. The document goes on to identify the link between the historic environment and biodiversity. Key objectives include:

- All aspects of the historic environment should be protected wherever possible;
- The value of individual historic sites should be evaluated;
- A balance must be struck between the need for growth and the conservation of historic assets;
- The community as a whole should be included in discussions concerning the historic landscape.

Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and planning, (1990) The document states the policies which relate to archaeological remains and how these should be recorded and preserved. The guidance note makes the link between green infrastructure and archaeology, making reference to the ability of open spaces to protect important remains that occur within development sites. Key objectives include:

• Archaeological remains should be protected wherever possible.

• A balance must be struck between the need for growth and the conservation of archaeological remains.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Planning Policy Statement 1: Creating Sustainable Communities (ODPM, 2005) PPS1 sets out the Government's objectives in relation to sustainable communities. It links to the 'place-making agenda as its objectives include protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside, and existing communities.

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004) PPS7 sets out the Government's objectives of thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities, with consideration to be given to improving the sustainability and quality of local neighbourhoods and communities.

Strong and Prosperous Communities, Local Government White Paper 2006. To create revitalised local communities with the aim of reshaping public services. Core to the Paper is enabling local partners to respond more flexibly to local needs, reducing the amount of top-down control from central government, and increasing participation of citizens and communities.

Connecting to Success – West Midlands Economic Strategy (2008) Advantage West Midlands. A central theme of the strategy is the focus on the role of place in both attracting and enabling economic growth. Through high-quality locations and environments which encourage businesses and highly skilled workforce; but also in dissuading or constraining economic activity (poor quality environments can limit investment, reduce aspirations and lead to negative stereotyping).

Quality and choice: A decent home for all: Housing Green Paper (2006) Everyone to have access to a decent home at a price they can afford, in a place where they want to live and work. The Government seeks more and better homes, built to high standards, both in terms of design and environmental impact and homes that are part of mixed communities with good local facilities. The Green Paper sets out targets for reduced carbon emissions in new housing leading to a target of zero emissions in 2016.

Housing and Regeneration Act. The Act establishes the new Homes and Communities Agency, which will focus on delivering more new and affordable homes across all tenures and will drive and invest in regeneration. The new agency will support regeneration and provide decent places as well as decent homes, e.g. by grant funding social housing and investing in infrastructure

PPS 3: Housing CLG (2006) Para 10 specifies that the specific outcomes that the planning system should deliver are:

- High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard;
- A mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price;
- To support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural.
- A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice;
- Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure;
- A flexible, responsive supply of land – managed in a way that makes efficient and effective use of land, including re-use of previously-developed land, where appropriate.

PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, ODPM (2005) and Planning and Climate Change Supplement, December 2007 Para 16 sets the following housing related objectives for Local Planning Authorities when plan making:

Development plans should promote development that creates socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes of housing. Plan policies should:

- ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is considered and taken into account;
- seek to reduce social inequalities;
- address accessibility (both in terms of location and physical access) for all members of the community to jobs, health, housing, education, shops, leisure and community facilities;
- take into account the needs of all the community, including particular requirements relating to age, sex, ethnic background, religion, disability or income;
- deliver safe, healthy and attractive places to live;
- support the promotion of health and well being by making provision for physical activity.

A key objective for Local Planning Authorities when plan making is to *"ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder or fear of crime does not undermine quality of life or community cohesion"*. PPS 1 also requires policies to promote inclusive, safe and crime free communities.

Para 9 of the Climate Change Supplement sets out how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change and includes as a key planning objective for spatial strategies that:

" in providing for the homes, jobs, services and infrastructure needed by communities, and in renewing and shaping the places where they live and work, secure the highest viable resource and energy efficiency and reduction in emissions."

Crime & Disorder Act amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 Sets out statutory requirements for responsible authorities to work with other local agencies and organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder and misuse of drugs in their area. Therefore Local Planning Authorities must consider these issues when making planning decisions.

Sustainable Communities Plan: Building for the Future, ODPM (2003) Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour is a priority for the Plan and it sets out various ways in which this will be achieved, including tackling the symptoms and causes of antisocial behaviour; putting 'planning out crime' at the heart of the planning process; and pursuing plans for neighbourhood and street wardens.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (DETR, 2001) To achieve effective integration of land use planning with transport provision and use, as a key factor in implementing Government aims of sustainable transport and good accessibility to facilities and services. Sets out principles for planning policies to

optimise accessibility and practices for managing travel demand and for implementing the policies through development control.

The Future of Transport – a network for 2030 (DfT, 2004) Defines the longer term strategy for transport in Great Britain, looking at the roles to be played by the different modes, the challenges faced and the investment to be undertaken.

Towards a Sustainable Transport System (TASTS) – Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World (DfT, 2007) Sets out the Government response to the Eddington and Stern reports and how these are taken into account in formulating the transport strategy up to 2014 and for the longer term. Updates the approach to decision making in this light. Establishes the five key targets of competitiveness and productivity, climate change, safety and health, quality of life, and social equity.

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) incorporating the West Midlands Regional Transport Strategy, WMRA (2008) Promotes walking and cycling promoted but states that action needs to be taken on a local level. This action includes: creating networks between amenities, residential and employment areas; providing links between smaller settlements and centres and development of greenways and quiet roads; making the most effective use of canal towpaths; ensuring that new developments and infrastructure proposals improve walking and cycling access.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 Extended the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. It created a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land and modernised the rights of way system. Under the CROW Act, local highway authorities are required to prepare Rights of Way Improvements Plans.

Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 sets key priorities for Nuneaton and Bedworth including enhancing accessibility and reducing congestion, notably by enhancing public transport provision in the north-south corridor linking the two settlements.

Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2006-2016 sets a vision for a sustainable Warwickshire Countryside, well connected by the paths and rights of way network.

RECREATION AND (OPEN SPACE AND ACCESS)

PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation requires that local authorities assess the needs of local residents, workers and visitors for open space, sports and recreational facilities as well as a qualitative and quantitative audit of current provision, usage and accessibility. Opportunities for new provision and potential for increased usage of existing provision through better design, management and maintenance should then be identified. The policy document also promotes the multi-functional nature of urban green space as an important environmental as well as social resource:

"Green spaces in urban areas perform vital functions as areas for nature conservation and biodiversity and by acting as 'green lungs' can assist in meeting objectives to improve air quality."

Policy QE4: Greenery, Urban Greenspace and Public Spaces encourages local authorities to undertake audits of the green space resource in urban areas (paying regard to Natural England's ANGSt standards) and to plan for urban greenspace networks which among other functions, establish links to the wider countryside to encourage the spread of species.

'**Game Plan' A Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity Objectives (Government Strategy Unit 2002)** Game Plan is an overall strategy for guiding Government's decisions on sports policy. It includes recognition of the importance of sport, both in its own right and as a tool to achieve core public goals (crime reduction, health, education and social inclusion).

Sign up for Sport – A regional plan for sport in the West Midlands 2004 – 2008: includes objectives on a joined up approach developed between the key agencies in the promotion of active recreation using the natural resources in the region;

- Sport and active recreation recognised as important in the plans of regional organisations responsible for natural environments by 2006;
- The main actions to be agreed with partners throughout the region in order to develop and deliver plans to widen access to sport and physical activity for priority or disadvantaged groups. This particularly applies to:
  - _ women and girls
  - _ over 50s
  - _ black and ethnic minority communities
  - _ disabled people
  - _ those people on low income
- The importance of physical activity opportunities are promoted within planning guidance, particularly encouraging active travel, including: cycle networks or paths, walkways and walk to school opportunities;
- There will be no developments that result in the loss of sports facilities and open spaces on sites at schools and higher and further education institutions, unless this is in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, or the assessment of needs is in line with Planning Policy Guidance 17.

The Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Open Space Assessment (2007) found that there were 56 sites (262.86 ha) of open space in the borough that were of high quality, whilst there were 38.65 ha in the borough that were of the lowest quality. Two wards, Bulkington and Mount Pleasant, had a deficit of Open Space.

HEALTH

Choosing Health: making healthier choices easier. Department of Health. (2004) Recognises that despite overall health improving there are still differences in health between those at the top and bottom ends of the social scale and in some cases these are increasing. In order to close the gap it recognises that improvements in health must be greatest for the most excluded groups and communities in society.

Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services. Department of Health (2006). Sets out a new direction for the whole health and social care system, shifting the way in which services are delivered to ensure that they are more personalised and localised and that they fit into people's lives. It seeks to ensure that health care goes beyond just treating people but is also focused on keeping people healthy and independent.

Regional Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2008) West Midlands Regional Health Partnership. The Strategy recognises that improving the Region's health will require action on social, economic and environmental issues. It recognises that built environment factors (such as buildings, places, streets, routes and greenspaces) as well as natural environment factors such as air, water and natural habitats have a big influence on the health of the population. The Strategy also promotes walking, cycling and the use of public transport and encourages new developments to incorporate open spaces to encourage recreation, play and promote active travel. Two of the key priorities are particularly relevant to the Nuneaton and Bedworth GI Plan, these are:

- Promote the benefits of a diverse natural environment for physical and mental health and support the development of green infrastructure;
- Increase the number of people using the countryside and greenspaces, in particular work to meet the emerging standards for accessible local green space.

Appendix 3: Biodiversity

BIODIVERSITY: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Statutory protected nature conservation sites within 5km of Nuneaton and Bedworth

SSSI name	Reason for designation	Condition assessment[6]; threats and vulnerabilities
Within Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary		
Ensor's Pool (**also a Special Area of Conservation - SAC**)	Ensor's Pool holds a nationally important population of native white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*.	Favourable condition: Good numbers of crayfish found in survey carried out in August 2008 and no evidence of mortality due to crayfish plague. The crayfish would be vulnerable to pollution and introduction of non-native crayfish, through uncontrolled access.
Griff Hill Quarry (geological SSSI)	The Quarry exposes a complex and unique sequence of igneous rocks of Ordovician age.	Favourable condition: Further quarrying is expected to extend the amount of rock exposed.
Within 5km of Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary		
Illing's Trenches (geological SSSI)	Contains exposures of Abbey Shales of the Cambrian period.	Favourable condition
Webster's Clay Pit (geological SSSI)	Geological SSSI: Contains an exposure of sandstones and mudstones belonging to the Enville Formation.	Destroyed: Earth science feature obstructed
Hoar Park Wood	An ancient woodland which includes oak and alder communities which are nationally restricted in their distribution. A large roost of Daubenton's bats is present.	Favourable. Key vulnerability of this site include over grazing/browsing by deer and lack of appropriate woodland management (coppicing/pollarding).
Boon's Quarry (geological SSSI)	Contains exposures of deeply-weathered Precambrian Caldecote Volcanic Formation overlain by the conglomerates and sandstones of the lowest unit of the late Precambrian to early Cambrian Hartshill	Favourable

[6] Natural England (no date) **SSSI condition summary** [on-line]. http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm (accessed June, 2009).

SSSI name	Reason for designation	Condition assessment[6]; threats and vulnerabilities
	Formation.	
Woodlands Quarry (geological SSSI)	Contains international Important early Cambrian fossils which are.	Unfavourable declining owing to inappropriate scrub control.
Kendall's Meadow	A traditionally managed hay meadow with a diversity and richness of plant life unmatched in the south west of the County, an area otherwise sparse in interest. It is probably the best representative of this grassland community type in the central English Midlands.	Favourable. Key vulnerability of this site include and lack of appropriate grassland management (for example, cutting for hay).

Illustrative BAP species associated with habitats in the Borough

Broad habitat type	Illustrative species from Warwickshire BAP[7]	Key threats and trends
Woodland	Woodland butterflies (e.g. wood white *Leptidea sinapsis*)	The abundance of woodland butterflies has dropped 43% over the last 16 years[8]. One of the biggest causes of decline amongst woodland butterflies has been the cessation of active broad-leaved woodland management, especially the decline of traditional woodland management systems such as coppicing.
Farmland	Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* Farmland birds (e.g. skylark, grey partridge, tree sparrow, corn bunting)	Lapwing numbers have declined steadily since the 1940's. Abandonment of agricultural rotations, the switch from spring to autumn sown crops, increased drainage, and increased use of agrochemicals are all attributed to this. Such changes have resulted in much of the arable land becoming unsuitable for nesting by April because the crop grows too high. Tillage, drainage and pesticides have also caused a reduction in food availability[9]. It has been estimated that farmland bird populations have declined 50% since the 1970s. Key factors include grubbing up of hedgerow habitat, toxic pollution through agrichemicals and planting of arable crops in winter which removes sources of food associated with winter stubbles[10].
Wetlands, rivers and canals	White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* Water vole *Arvicola terrestris*	The white-clawed crayfish lives in a diverse variety of clean aquatic habitats but especially favours hard-water streams and rivers. A major threat to the native white-clawed crayfish is posed by the introduction of non-native species of crayfish which acts as a vector for the virulent fungal pathogen 'crayfish plague' and outcompetes the native crayfish for food. Key threats to water vole populations include destruction of riparian habitats including removal of well vegetated areas where water vole forages and shelters. In addition, direct predation from feral American mink *Neovison vison* is a key factor linked to water vole decline[11].
Urban and post-industrial	Great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*	Great crested newt has undergone a marked decline nationally since 1950[12]. Damage to and destruction of breeding ponds through urban development and intensive agriculture and lack of management leading to 'scrubbing up' are key threats to

[7] Warwickshire County Council (no date). **Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan: Species Action Plans** [on-line] http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/017D72F53E8C7A5380256C7800467F77 (accessed June, 2009)

[8] Forestry Commission (no date). **Lepidoptera on Forestry Commission Land in England; Conservation Strategy 2007-2017** [on-line] http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-butterflies (accessed March, 2009).

[9] RSPB (2009). **Population trends**. [on-line] http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name/l/lapwing/decline_and_conservation.asp (accessed March, 2009).

[10] BTO (no date). **England Biodiversity Strategy Indicators**. [on-line] http://www.bto.org/research/indicators/england_indicators.htm (accessed March, 2009).

[11] Strachan, R and Moorhouse, T, 2006 **Water Vole Conservation Handbook**

[12] Langton, T., Beckett, C. and Foster, J, (2001 **Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook**

Broad habitat type	Illustrative species from Warwickshire BAP[7]	Key threats and trends
		great crested newt populations. In addition, introduction of fish which prey on newt larvae and water pollution are linked to population declines.
	Song thrush *Turdus philomelos*	BTO data show a national decline of 57% during 1973-98, though the latest regional data show an increase for the West Midlands of almost 60% between 1994 and 2000[13]. Reasons for the decline are still only partly understood and may include: – lack of food supply (especially earthworms) and available nest sites as result of changes in farming practice, particularly land drainage and the switch to silage production on grassland and possibly the use of molluscides on crops. – climate change and unfavourable weather conditions, particularly dry soil conditions during the breeding season, which restrict the availability of earthworms and snails. – fewer damp woods with developed shrub layers, hedgerows and wet ditches in which to feed and nest; – predation by domestic pets.

Detailed biodiversity opportunities

- **Green links and accessibility**: The area is crossed by numerous canals, rivers, disused railway lines and a relatively extensive PROW network. Opportunities exist for restoring habitats along these routes. For example, the Marston Junction sits at a strategic point between the Ashby De La Zouche Canal, Coventry Canal and Wem Brook between Nuneaton and Bedworth. This network could be developed as a series of access paths, wetland habitats and nature based visitor attractions. Similarly, the River Anker/Sketchley Brook corridor (in the north east of the Borough) and the River Sowe (located in the south west of the Borough) offers potential for habitat linkages between the towns of Nuneaton and Bedworth and surrounding countryside areas similarly focused on wetland habitat creation and public access, recreation and transport. Creation of green links as recreational amenities may also help to alleviate future visitor pressure issues (see above). Creation of new wetlands and linear woodlands would provide habitat for species such as great crested newt, water vole and song thrush. In certain cases linear habitats may also facilitate species dispersal acting to redress habitat fragmentation issues.

[13] Warwickshire County Council 2003 ***Species Action Plan: Song Thrush Turdus philomelos*** [on-line] http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/pages.nsf/Links/664C36342CE8DE8180256E910041C62C/$file/Songthrush.pdf (accessed June, 2009).

- **Providing access to nature in urban areas:** Urban habitats such as private gardens support a high diversity of species[14] and offer a range of benefits to urban residents. For example, benefits to people's well being and health and the provision of functions such as pollution attenuation and summer cooling[15]. Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt) model has been developed to assist in the targeting of high quality and well maintained 'natural green spaces' close to people's homes. Key sites for urban biodiversity improvement include the numerous urban parks and SINCs such as Anker Mills and Whittleford Park/Barpool Valley in Nuneaton or the Miner's Welfare Park in Bedworth. In addition, linear habitats and green links such as the Coventry Canal, River Anker valley, and disused railway lines such as the flood channel crossing the River Anker/A47 in north Nuneaton or the old Newdigate mineral line to Arbury in Bedworth.

- **Restoration of former mineral sites**: The Borough contains many current and former minerals sites including Judkins Quarry, Griff Hill Quarry and Hartshill Hayes Country Park (just north of the Borough). Often these sites provide good opportunities for habitat restoration. For example, wetland habitats such standing water, reedbed and wet woodland may be created. In addition, the often low nutrient status and varied topography of such sites may facilitate Open Mosaic Habitats (UK BAP) which are rich in flowering plants and invertebrates. Multiple species may benefit from such enhancements, for example, a number of species listed on the Warwickshire LBAP, such a great crested newt and snipe. On-going management of these sites is frequently supported by planning covenants for ecological regeneration from former industrial uses. Restoration of new mineral sites which are at the end of their extractive lifetime or further improvement of existing sites may jointly alleviate future visitor pressure issues whilst providing new large-scale wildlife habitats.

- **Environmental Stewardship**: Natural England has identified the western part of the Borough, centred on the Forest of Arden, as a target zone for receipt of Higher Level Stewardship funding[16]. The HLS target zone overlaps the Arbury Estate and includes areas up to the western edge of Nuneaton and Bedworth urban areas. Funding will be allocated in this zone for biodiversity conservation and landscape enhancement works if it can be demonstrated that these contribute to: recreation/restoration of wet grassland, flood meadow and fen habitats; restoration of habitat for farmland or wet grassland birds (e.g. grey partridge, corn bunting, lapwing, snipe, redshank); and restoration of historic landscapes and their features, such as parkland. Environmental stewardship offers opportunities for reinstating 'functional ecosystem processes', for example, by creating wetland scrapes, reedbeds and flood meadows alongside water courses. It may also act to 'improve the biodiversity value of farmland' by encouraging conservation grazing systems and management techniques benefitting

[14] Gaston, K.J., Smith, R.M., Thompson, K., Warren, P.H, 2004 **Gardens and wildlife – the BUGS Project**. *British Wildlife*. 16(1): 1-9.
[15] Handley et al, 2003 ***Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for their Implementation*. English Nature Research Report 526**
[16] Natural England (no date). **HLS Target Area Statement WM08: Meriden Gap, Tame and Upper Trent River Valleys Target Area** [on-line]. http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/images/hlstargeting/Meriden_Gap_Tame_and_Upper_Trent_Valleys.pdf (accessed June, 2009).

biodiversity, such as pollarding of wood pasture trees and hedge laying in the Borough.

- **Designate 'Proposed Sites of Importance of Nature Conservation Importance' and work towards adoption of NI 197:** SINCs and PSINCs contain some of the best semi-natural habitats within the Borough. Consideration should be given to elevating the policy protection offered to PSINCs by full designation as SINCs. Further, the adoption of National Indicator 197 ('Improved Local Biodiversity: proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved')[17] offers a robust mechanism for securing the appropriate management, enhancement and/or creation of local wildlife sites. NI 197 requires the development of objective and locally defined criteria for assessing the ecological condition of locally designated nature conservation sites. On-going management at these sites will be required to sustain populations of species such as woodland ground flora plants, woodland butterflies and flowering herbs of lowland meadows.

- **Habitat banking**: Delivery of ecological compensation for land which is to be developed for housing could be guided by a framework for calculating developer contributions. A system such as this is currently being developed as draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Borough of Brighton and Hove[18]. The Brighton and Hove draft SPD is based on 'nature conservation points' which are calculated on the basis of species and habitats present on site. New developments must deliver compensation equalling nature conservation points to be lost from a site. This can be delivered on-site or off-site within the borough. Again habitat banking may offer a source of funding to ensure on-going management of nature conservation sites. If used strategically, habitat banking could be targeted to deliver large new areas habitat to offset the issue of habitat fragmentation and destruction within the wider Borough (see issues above).

- **Flagship species and geological heritage**: Certain charismatic species or species with a particular local cultural resonance may acts as effective 'flagships' to garner public support for habitat restoration work, particularly if this is to be associated with amenity uses of new habitats. Such species may include Warwickshire LBAP species such as the otter, water vole or lapwing. There are numerous geological SSSIs and SINCs in close proximity to the Borough for example, Griff Hill Quarry and Judkins Quarry. The diverse geological heritage of the area could be used as a focus for urban regeneration, promotion of access to nature and environmental education. This has been piloted elsewhere in the West Midlands, for example, Wrens Nest in Dudley[19].

[17] DEFRA (no date) **Local government performance framework: NI 197 - Improved Local Biodiversity – proportion of Local Sites where active conservation management is being achieved**. http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localgovindicators/ni197.htm (accessed, May 2009).
[18] Brighton and Hove City Council (no date). **Draft Supplementary Planning Document: Nature Conservation and Development**. [on-line] http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/ldf/PCv0208_-_Nature_Conservation___Development_draft_SPD.pdf (accessed, June 2009).
[19] Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (no date). **Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve**. [on-line] http://www.dudley.gov.uk/environment--planning/countryside/nature-reserves/wrens-nest-national-nature-reserve (accessed June, 2009).

- **Biodiversity monitoring:** Up to date information is required to evaluate the success of conservation measures on habitats and species. This must be collected in a consistent manner year to year so that changes can be detected. In certain circumstances it may be appropriate to adopt 'indicator species' to monitor the ecological condition of the wider ecosystem in the Borough. For example, many farmland birds require a mixture of well maintained hedgerows, small woodlands and areas of rough grassland, this in turn benefits a range of other species. It may be advantageous to involve the local community in collection of biodiversity data (for example, garden bird watches or butterfly transects).

Appendix 4: Nuneaton and Bedworth Draft Open Space hierarchy and criteria

8.0 Open Space Hierarchy

In light of the PPG17 audit, other current guidance on best practice and after researching a number of other open space strategies from around the country, we have taken a strategic assessment of all the accessible public open space within the borough. We have combined this information with our extensive knowledge of local circumstances to produce a typology and hierarchy of public open space within the borough.

8.1 Hierarchy/Typology Of Public Open Space

Destination Parks (Dest)
Community Parks (Comm.)
Neighbourhood/Local (Loc)
Incidental (Inci)
Cemeteries
Allotments

For the purpose of the typology we have included formal, semi-formal and natural urban green space (Wildspaces) under the same typology.

8.1.1 Destination Parks

These particular sites would normally cover an area of between 10 and 65 hectares and contain a whole range of quality facilities and experiences for all members of the public. These can be classed as our main parks and would allow the visitor to spend several hours enjoying the open space environment; we have three within the borough:

Riversley Park
Miners Welfare Park
Whittleford Park

Collectively they cover an area in excess of 120 hectares and act as central hubs for recreational activities throughout a network of connecting pieces of Public Open Space. Typically these should meet the following criteria:

Parking facilities
Toilet facilities
Refreshments
Community Involvement – Friends of Groups
Public Transport Links
Play Facility / Space
Information / Interpretation / Education
Community Space / Function
Horticultural / Biodiversity / Sustainable Excellence
Green Flag Standard
Borough Wide Events
Easy access – DDA Provision
On site staff provision-Community Warden
High Quality Signage
Showcase
Hub of Green infrastructure / network of connecting spaces

8.1.2 Community Parks

These sites are normally between 1 and 10 hectares and include some of our most established and utilised areas of public open space. There are 30 of these sites within the borough covering an area of 177 hectares. These include:

Nuneaton Rec. / Pool Bank St.
Greenmoor Road
Stubbs Pool incl. The Dingle
Stockingford Rec.
Tiverton Drive
Marlborough Rec.
Sandon Park
Weddington complex
Sorrell Road
Griff Hollows and Wem Brook
Pauls Land incl Quarry area

Bailey Park
Bulkington Rec.
Heckley
Keresley
Blue Bell Drive
Newdegate
Crowhill Rec.
Bedworth Sloughs
The Nook
Bermuda Balancing Lake
Ensor's Pool/Lingmoor Park
The Shuntings / Nuneaton Common
Windmill Hill
Heath Road Rec.
Barnacle Lane
Beverley Ave incl Whytell Pool
Kingswood
Chaucer / Chesterton
Tomkinson Rec

These sites are at the heart of our communities and provide a wide range of facilities and experiences to the communities they serve. These sites should meet the following criteria:

Play Facility / Space
Good Access
Public Transport Links within 600m
Partly Staffed – Mobile Ranger service.
Community Groups
Information/Interpretation/Education if warranted
Sporting / Leisure Provision
Meets the standards identified within the Green Flag criteria for Horticultural / Biodiversity / Sustainable Quality
Managed to Green Flag Standards

Community Events
Good Signage
Potential for Community Management

8.1.3 Local Parks

These sites are typically 0.4 – 10.0 hectares and contain in excess of 35 formal and wildspaces throughout the borough covering an area of over 50 hectares, including such significant sites as, Haunchwood Recreation Ground and Walkway, Cornish Crescent, Coronation Walk and Collycroft Recreation Ground. They act in many cases as the only useable pieces of Public Open Space in their locality and as the conduit linking together the green infrastructure.

These sites should meet the following criteria:
Play space
Basic Signage
Horticultural/Interpretation/Sustainable Quality
Community Engagement – Consultation and Local Management
Green Flag Standards
Support Local Appropriate Events

8.1.4 Incidental Open Space

These areas include all other pieces of public open space found throughout the borough and are normally up to 0.4 hectares in size.

They include such areas as grass verges but also some significant sites in housing areas such as Butlers Crescent and Black-a-tree Road, which form an important role in breaking up large blocks of housing.

The use / misuse for recreation of these areas will be considered later in this strategy - both in terms of pressure on them in areas otherwise deprived of open space and in terms of physical measures that can be taken to prevent their use).

8.1.5 Cemeteries

These are an important part of the councils green space, not only acting as functional sites as burial grounds but as places of sanctuary for the bereaved attending graves and seeking a place for quiet contemplation and also as a historical archive with the many memorials.

We have five active sites within the borough and are currently seeking additional land to sustain burial space for the next 50-100 years. We also are responsible for five closed churchyards.
These sites should meet the following criteria:

Good quality signage
Horticultural Quality
Wide range of choice for the bereaved
Safe
Community/Historical Involvement

8.1.6 Allotments

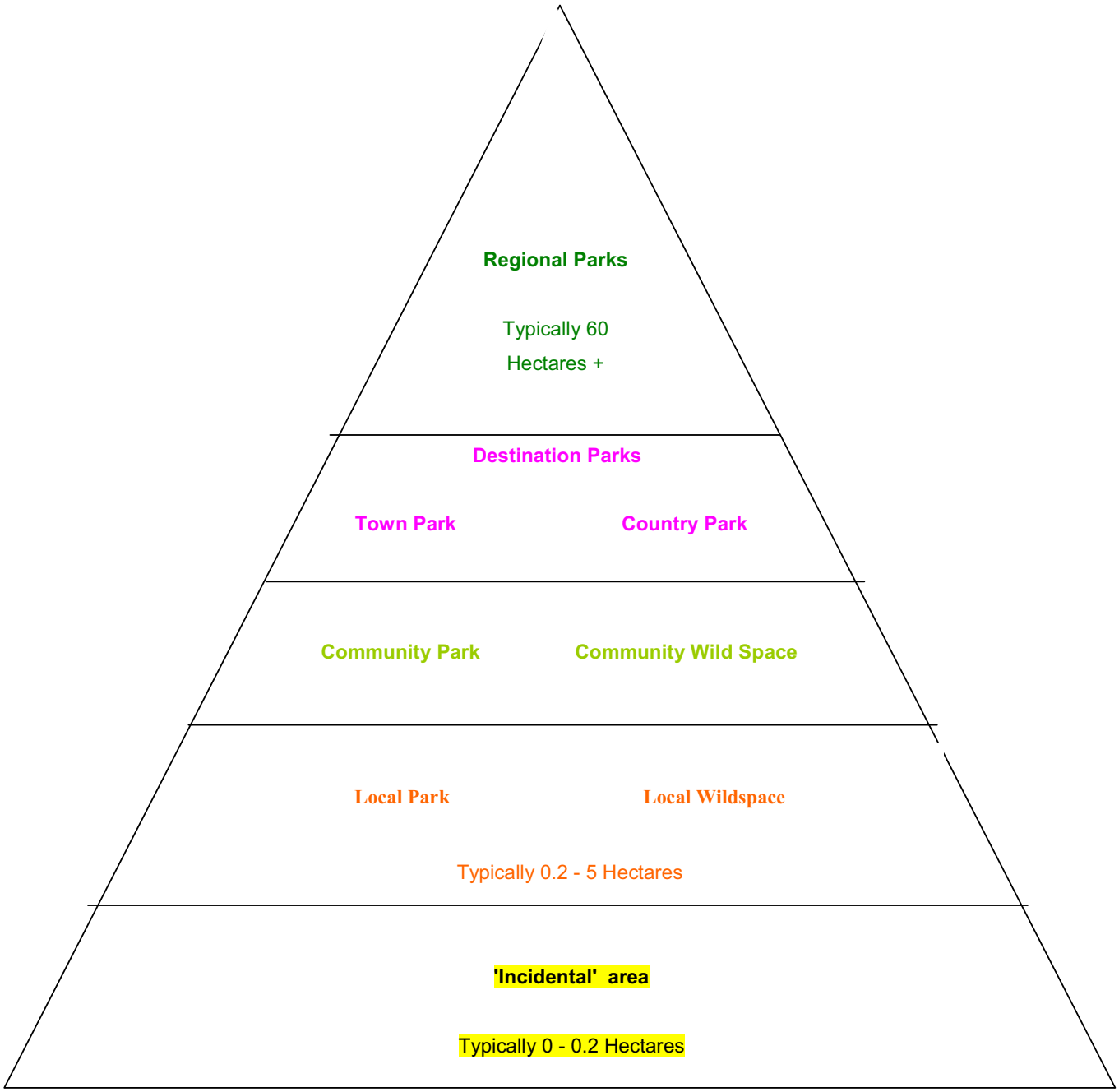
There are 23 council owned sites across the borough, which have not been included directly within this strategy but will be dealt with under a separate strategy.

These sites should meet the following criteria:
Provided to a minimum standard
Self managed
Provided in sufficient numbers across the borough
Provided in the right locations
Support of Management Groups

8.2 Types of Greenspace Used In Typology

Drawing on a wide range of best practice examples – and input from the Parks and Countryside team about local circumstances –the following range of descriptions have

been used to classify all publicly accessible land which can be audited and these sit within the hierarchy set out below:



Criteria	Country Park (Destination)	Community Park	Local Park	Incidental
Walking Distance	Drive to & Walk to 1000m +	600m Walking Distance	400m Walking Distance	No Specific Distance
Horticultural / Biodiversity / Sustainability Excellence	LNR Status Maintained, or towards SINC status	LNR Status Maintained, or towards SINC status	Yes	Yes
Staffing	On Site	Mobile	Mobile	Basic Monitoring/Maintenance
High Quality Signage	Multiple Entrance / Interpretation / Directional / Trails	Entrance Signage Interpretation where significant interest	Basic sign at entrance rules / contact number	Basic sign at entrance
Hub of Green Infrastructure	Starting point for Green track walks / trails	Integral part of green network / trails (nodes)	Joined to network or rights of way network	Joined to network
Play Facility / Space	Formal 'sympathetic' or natural creative play facility	Formal sympathetic "or natural creative play facility	Formal "sympathetic" or natural creative play facility	
Sport & Leisure?Provision	Yes	Yes	Dependant on Location	
Green Flag Standard	Green Flag Awarded	Green Flag Standard / Green Pennant?	Green Flag Standard	
Events	Borough Wide Scale Events	Community Scale Events	Support of locally organised events	
Community Involvement	Friends/users Groups	Friends Groups	Community Engagement e.g through contact With Residents Associations	
Easy access DDA provision	Specific easy access provision	Easy Access Provision	Improving Access arrangements	
Community Space Function	Yes	Yes		
Public Transport	To Site Entrance	Within 600m		
Leaflet	Yes	Where signifcant		
Information Interpretation Education	Yes	If strong historic/ Natural interest opportunities		
Parking	Yes			
Toilets	Yes			
Refreshments	Yes			
Showcase	Public Art etc			

Criteria Standards	CAR PARK(S)	TOILETS	PLAY AREAS	PATH SURFACES	SITE LEAFLET	INFORMATION PANELS	DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE FOR PEDESTRIANS	NOTICEBOARD
Destination	Yes (Tarmac) To capacity related to visitor numbers	Yes	Yes (Toddler+ Junior to NBBC 'Destination Park Standard') (+ Teenage if site acts as a Community Park)	Destination Park - principal path network in Tarmac Country Park - Principal path network in crushed stone	Yes	Yes - If site is a tourist destination	Yes	
Community	No	No	Yes on formal sites (Toddler, Junior and Teenage to NBBC 'Community Park Standard') Informal – Enhanced 'Natural Play' opportunities as appropriate	Formal - Principal path network in Tarmac Neighbourhood Wildspaces - Principal path network in crushed stone	No	No - Unless very strong historic or natural heritage interest is a feature of the site	No	Yes
Local	No	No	Yes - on formal sites in appropriate geographical distribution (Toddler / Junior / Teenage to 'local NBBC standard')	Tarmac on formal sites Crushed stone or mown on informal sites depending on intensity of use	No	No - Unless very strong historic or natural heritage interest is a feature of the site	No	Only where funds permit and a high intensity of use occurs
Incidental	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Tarmac on formal sites Crushed stone or mown on informal sites depending on	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	No

Appendix 5: Stakeholder consultation

First workshop – record of findings

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – INITIAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING, 13TH MAY 2009

Exercise 1

Place, character, landscape and cultural heritage	
Issues	***LUC response***
Need to take account of/use Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data. Available for charge from CC (Ben Wallace)	Data now obtained.
Historic Environment Record (HER) data is available from County (Emma James/Jonathan Parkhouse)	Is likely that value of this would be limited for the purposes of this study.
Note cultural value of non designated sites e.g. vernacular of canal and associated historic infrastructure.	This can be referred to in general terms and confirmed through field survey, as canals will be a key part of the GI network. LUC have checked canal and associated architecture on site.
Importance/value of the housing estates which were purpose built for the mining communities in the outlying villages, e.g. Bermuda.	Agree – relates in general terms to essence of place and the 'Victorian Legacy'/post industrial heritage.
Take account of non designated 'heritage parks' especially those which were gifted to the town and have been established for 50+	LUC to check presence on historic OS maps (British Library) and check key ones on the initial site visit. Key parks visited 02/06/09.

Place, character, landscape and cultural heritage	
years (e.g. Riversley Park)	
Lack of interpretation materials a key issue for cultural heritage assets in general.	Basis for some of the GI recommendations/principles. Agree from site visit that this is highly variable e.g. to canal and associated important wetland sites near Bedworth.
Consider to how better express links between the town and the Arden landscape, and to the wider countryside in general.	Proposed Arden/Arbury Way and woodland access zone added within GI proposals.
Opportunities	
Post industrial sites which cannot be developed and which can form a focus for new greenspace (e. g. Judkins's Quarry) should be conserved, so that elements of the heritage of the site are visible and not 'sanitised'	Subject to issues of contamination and health and safety through later design and implementation, agree.
Canal heritage already valued at Bulkington e.g. radial routes focussed on canal – potential opportunity to extend elsewhere. Similarly good links already made along canal to Hartshill Country Park to the north.	Agree – check potential in drawing up recommendations. Have identified potential enhancement links between Bedworth and Bermuda/Ashby Canal.
Hawksbury – link canal watercourse and green corridor in new developments.	Canal has been identified as key link in this area.

Place, character, landscape and cultural heritage	
Potential link between Bermuda Lake and Ensor's Pool.	
Opportunity to open up River Anker through town centre (setting and original strategic importance of the rivers)	This is limited. May be partially realised through redevelopment masterplan for Bus Station site. LUC to check other parts of river corridor and potential opportunities for environmental compensation when on site. Checked on first site visit 02/06/09.

Biodiversity and nature conservation	
Issues	***LUC response***
Some sites areas on map already developed now (e.g. Bermuda – update the map)	Check with NBBC (planning permissions/recent application schemes etc). Have asked for relevant Mastermap layers June 09.
Species rich hedgerows – survey data available?	?
Arbury – depending on options pursued	
Ashby Canal – regionally important for biodiversity. Potential for designation	Canal has been incorporated as a key part of the wetland zone.
Need for greater consideration of management in amenity greenspace	
Greenbelt and woodlands to the south of the	

Biodiversity and nature conservation	
Borough.	
Connectivity and relationship to adjoining GI	LUC are reviewing adjacent GI Strategies (Hinkley and Bosworth, and Coventry City), as part of this work, and will take account of any appropriate linkages.
Opportunities	
Potential for habitat restoration/links at Bermuda site (via Deeley's)	Liaise with Deeley's as appropriate in developing recommendations in this area, as appropriate.
Nuneaton and Hartshill Ridge Project - links	Reflected in Post industrial Discovery Zone and supporting projects.
Opening up of culverted watercourses (work of EA) for floodrisk management and biodiversity functions.	Scope these as part of site work and with reference to SFRA. Key watercourses visited on site visits.
Use changed management in amenity greenspace/public amenity areas for biodiversity (+ roadside verges).	Check key municipal spaces (character/condition) in site work and use to focus recommendations. Checked on site 02/06/09.
Enhance links between designated sites to reduce habitat fragmentation	Agree – investigate/scope and check feasibility through site work and in developing the GI network. Proposed link Arbury/Bermuda. Ensor's Pool considered within proposed network.

Open space, recreation and access links	
Issues	***LUC response***
Need for consultation on types of open space	
Add N Warwickshire cycle route	LUC to follow up and add as appropriate. Added.
Add school sites (BSF) – cycle routes	LUC to follow up availability of school site location data with NBBC. Have checked this data and used it in drawing up the proposed network.
Potential open space deficiency at Whitestone, to eastern edge of Nuneaton.	This appears to be the case on map. Check on site and as functional criteria and need/demand analysis are developed. Checked through need and demand analysis.
Cycle routes to Coventry along canal	
Potential flood channel along disused rail line to north of Attleborough Fields and crossing A47 in eastern part of town	Checked on 2nd site visit.
Opportunities	
Rotary/radial walk around Nuneaton, similar to the radial walk around Coventry (Coventry Way)	Checked parts of this site, and opportunities for links to Coventry Way.
Bus station redevelopment opportunity (associated greenspace and potential reinstatement of course of River Anker?)	Check on site visit, and any recommendations in Strategic Floodrisk Assessment (SFRA), although it is understood that opportunities for such restoration in the town centre may only be presented by these masterplan proposals. Checked on 1st site visit.

Open space, recreation and access links	
Open space deficiency at Camp Hill – investigate potential for links between open space sites (Croft Junior School and open space at Suffolk Close)	Checked on site. Links identified on GI map.
Potential improved link between Miners Welfare Park and town centre, within Bedworth	Checked on 1st site visit.

Exercise 2

Nuneaton (Blue group)	
Character – what is special	***LUC response***
Using social deprivation data can help highlight where better links are needed; look at IMD data for Nuneaton as significant deprivation issues in places	Agree, will check this dataset in making recommendations. Checked and used.
Lost mining characteristics – more dormitory town to Coventry, heritage lost on new generation	Opportunity/need for better interpretation of sites and links within distinct neighbourhoods, in projects such as those within the Post Industrial Discovery Zone.
2 separate identities within Borough	-
Keep separate to maintain biodiversity	We assume this relates to the issue of coalescence between the two towns and

Nuneaton (Blue group)	
	impact on wildlife/nature conservation sites. We agree that this is a sensitive issue
East-west route/corridor needs to be kept open to the south Coventry is a further barrier	-
M6/A444 already creates a barrier for species movement	-
Provision in one area creates a demand in the other town	-
Issues, deficiencies and opportunities	***LUC response***
Camp Hill flood issues – balancing lakes impact on biodiversity – better planning and design needed	Check SFRA for relevant information. Checked.
EA policy open up culverts for better biodiversity	Check SFRA for relevant information. Checked– suggested in proposals for urban stretches of the Anker.
1960s – flood relief has resulted in less flow capacity causes silting	-
Extn of Ashby Canal – may draw needed water from Coventry canal – potential to store water could be used as low carbon energy solution	-

Nuneaton (Blue group)	
Management/Misuse off-road – safety/crime annoying behaviour	Issue to be picked up in GI recommendations.
Problems moving from one place to another residential estates to recreation areas	Investigate opportunities for further links as part of desk study and confirm on site. Strategic links identified.
Links to projects such as Sustrans	Sustrans contact invited to second workshop.
Delivery	***LUC response***
Develop community relationships in terms of 'Friends of' groups – sense of buy in/community ownership	Agree – this may be a key opportunity in the Delivery Plan

Exercise 2

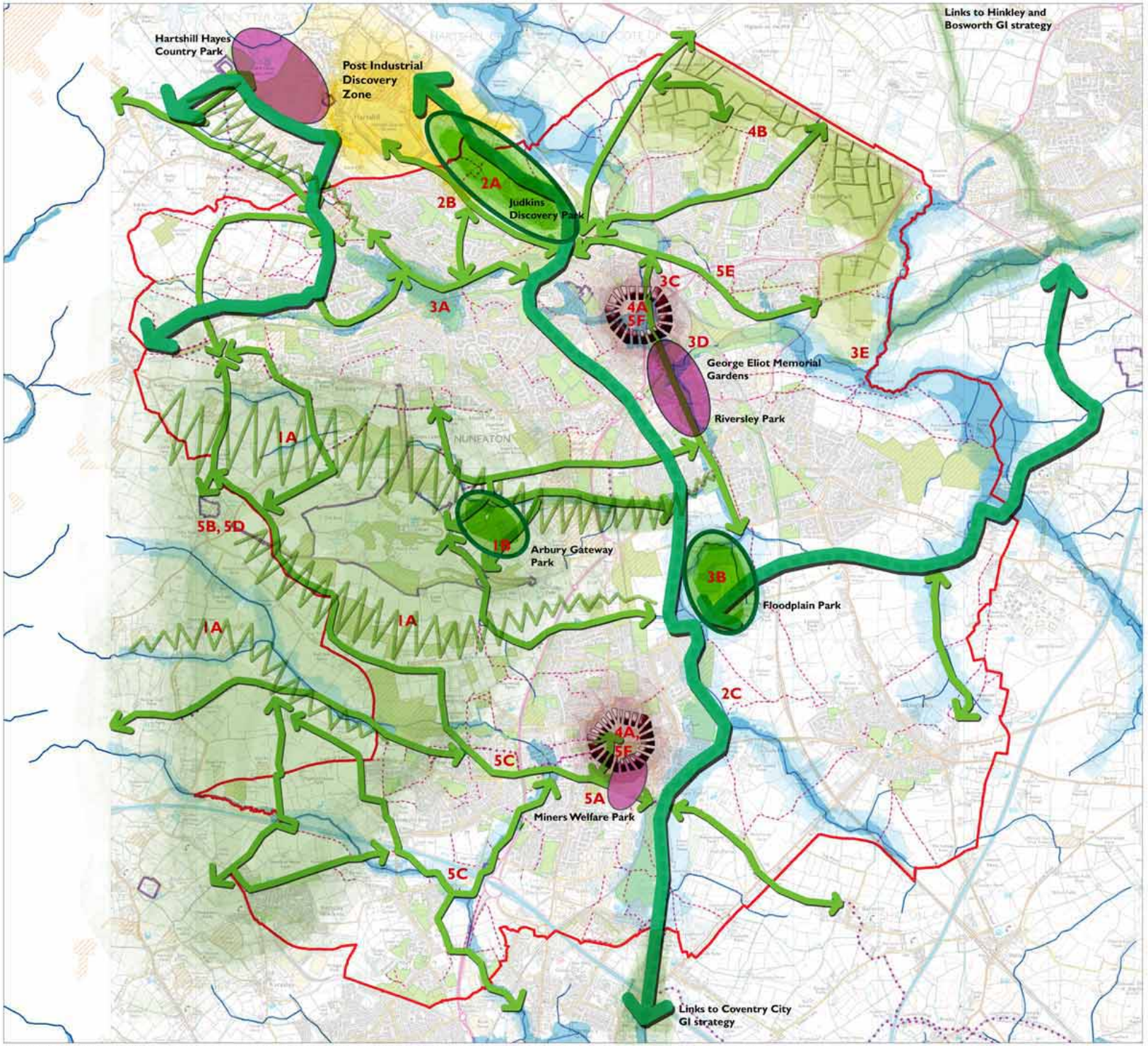
Bedworth (orange group)	
Character – what is special	***LUC response***
Close-knit – more than Nuneaton	-
Ex-mining (and other industries - ribbon weaving)	-
Towpath– not to same standard (NCN) as Nuneaton	Checked on 1st site visit.

Bedworth (orange group)	
Issues, deficiencies and opportunities	***LUC response***
Possible link at Newdigate mineral line	Checked on 1st site visit.
M6 Corridor – importance for habitat	
Sowe Valley Corridor - habitat	
Tesco redevelopment – town centre?	Check if any information available on proposals and how these could relate to GI.
Link almshouses/CEM/miners welfare park	Check opportunities for enhanced links to Miner's Welfare Park on site. Checked on 1st site visit.
Problems – motorbikes on open spaces	Issue to be picked up in GI recommendations – Friends Groups etc and appropriate management mechanisms
Barriers to stop motorbikes, stop people?	Need for careful design, and also provision of alternative recreational activity within greenspace to regulate this type of anti social activity, or dedicated areas for such use
Good design? Sustainable? Education, management, alternative sites that bikes could use	Agree – see response above
General concern about sustainability of new areas	GI plan will set high level framework for sustainable growth/new development
Non native species from composting sites – put	

Bedworth (orange group)	
in isolation from GI?	
Community involvement: - local knowledge; - ownership; - external funding; - Friends groups.	Agree – opportunities for such involvement should be identified in the Delivery Plan – next steps to take GI forward
River corridors – angling groups, unregulated angling on public open spaces = community involvement	
Delivery	***LUC response***
Potential partnerships e.g. Wildlife trust – support (land ownership?); EA – angling, etc, Forestry Commission/Woodland Trust - Grants	Identify links to appropriate partners for delivery and ongoing governance, within delivery plan. GI plan should link to visions and aspirations of key partners – a 'hook'
Community Service/probation	Identify as means for delivery/management - links
BBC – breathing spaces	
Groundwork/BTCV	
(Portishead) housing development – ownership – money spent in immediate patch – not used	Check as appropriate

Bedworth (orange group)	
elsewhere around Borough	
Residents contribution – ongoing sums	
Incoming funding – 106 etc. to be ring fenced to end use	
Phasing of GI – plan as advance mitigation/compensation for future development	Agree
Ashby Canal Corridor should be a key priority – water vole habitat	

Initial green infrastructure network, presented at second workshop



Nuneaton and Bedworth Green Infrastructure Plan

Key

Existing

- Nuneaton and Bedworth boundary
- Long distance footpaths
- Footpaths
- Habitat provision
- Open space sites
- Rivers
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment zone 3a
- Cultural heritage features
- Existing strategic greenspace site

Proposed

- Destination greenspace
- Arden landscape enhancement zone
- Post-industrial discovery zone
- Urban waterways and wetlands zone
- Urban greening zone
- Woodland restoration and enhancement zones
- Landscape structure restoration

Enhanced connections

- Strategic corridor
- Local green link

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DRAFT

Source: N and BBC, LUC, English Heritage Natural England

Date: 09/06/2009
Revision:

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Workshop 2 – record of findings

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – SECOND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Prepared for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
by
Land Use Consultants

June 2009

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report summarises the key findings from the second stakeholder meeting held to inform the development of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Green Infrastructure Plan. The event was held at the Heritage Centre on the afternoon of Monday 22nd June.

1.2. A short presentation was given by LUC providing an update on work done so far. Attendees were then split into four discussion groups (set out in the following sections of this report), considering and commenting on the GI zones and component projects, the environmental functions of the green infrastructure network and issues associated with delivery.

2. BLUE * GROUP (ZONES 1: ARDEN AND 2: POST INDUSTRIAL)

ZONES AND PROJECTS – KEY POINTS

Issue	*LUC response*
Woodlands in Arden have been subject to restoration and replanting for last 30 years. Development and increased access pose a threat.	One of the purposes of the GI Plan is to mitigate/alleviate such threats. The primary emphasis of this zone is to reinforce and strengthen, conserve and enhance the wooded character to sustain it for the long term. Objectives established for the GI zone should be used to guide future projects through the Development Management Process, so that these do not prejudice these objectives/do not harm landscape and ecological character.
Arbury Park should have a 100m buffer to protect from development, woodlands elsewhere 50m.	Agree with principle of buffer zones and protection of setting, but what is the evidence for these figures?
Issue of building on sensitive land at Arbury compared to less sensitive land in the east of Borough.	This is an issue for Preferred Options within the LDF, not for the GI Plan. The GI Plan identifies key opportunities and constraints, to inform the Council's position in relation to spatial planning and future allocations.
Plan is weak on links in the Borough to various estates.	This is a strategic study and cannot consider every local link. We will however check the potential for additional key multi functional linkages
Opportunity for enhancement at Griff Quarry.	Agree, as and when this reaches the end of its operational life.
A number of sites (Forestry/woodland) with funding enhancement are not identified on the map.	Check with Forestry Commission. Inquiries made with Ewan Calcott to determine whether these are relevant.
Cannot truly identify potential projects at present as group feel certain information is missing.	-
PROW improvement projects would	Agree that access could and should be

Issue	*LUC response*
be acceptable for Arbury but not wholesale development.	enhanced.
Old energy plant should be identified as a site for potential recreation.	?
Discovery Zone – access and safety should be thoroughly looked into.	Feasibility studies and later detailed design would establish the remediation works necessary and would necessarily work within the parameters set by relevant European and national legislation in relation to access, construction and health and safety.
In relation to the Discovery Zone, there's high deprivation in this area so they may not be able to afford it.	Funding would necessarily come from a wide range of sources, with the projects within the zone delivered on a phased basis. One of the key aims of the project would be to address deprivation in terms of education and health, but the parkland could also provide employment in relation to implementation and particularly ongoing management.
No discussion about employment opportunities to address deprivation.	See comment above.
Is the Discovery Zone really something people want – what about a Country Park?	The GI Plan establishes a broad framework – how things are taken forward will be subject to Feasibility Studies and public consultation.
Any works in the Discovery Zone should be below the sight line of Mount Jud.	Future detailed design will have to consider the need for environmental thresholds such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and assessment of issues in relation to Landscape and Visual Amenity.
Consideration of Newdigate Colliery in GI Plan – rich butterfly habitat.	Checked
Arbury – access for all.	The proposals for Arbury Gateway Park are intended to address this issue in part.
Arbury Park forms a key buffer for Ensor's Pool.	Agree – this should be conserved.
Investigate links between Arbury and Whittleford Park.	Checked

Issue	*LUC response*
Flooding across the Borough is increasing.	
Make the connections to the past – sense of place.	
Maintain existing smaller spaces and connectivity between them.	
No mention of LNRS.	These have been identified and referenced fully in the characterisation and are also shown in general terms in this concept map.
No barriers across boundaries e.g. link to North Warwickshire.	Agree – where feasible and where data exists

DELIVERY – KEY POINTS

Issue	*LUC response*
Key mechanisms are the grant schemes operated by the Forestry Commission through the English Woodlands Grant Scheme (EWGS).	Agree
Education in woodland management, walks to health.	Potential opportunity for a Forest School? Woodland walks also form a key part of Arbury zone
NHS Forests.	
Use of colonising birch at quarry sites for Biomass/Combined Heat and Power (CHP).	

3. PINK GROUP (ZONE 3: URBAN WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS)

ZONES AND PROJECTS – KEY POINTS

Issue	*LUC response*
Barpool Valley is not shown on the map.	It is
Issue of loss and re creation of wetland habitat for SuDS at Whittleford Park.	
Show 2 river catchments (Trent and Severn).	Check
Check all appropriate links to Coventry and Rugby GI Strategies shown.	Checked Coventry, still awaiting copy of draft Rugby GI Strategy.
Should use HER data.	This is a strategic scale study and this dataset is unlikely to be useful.
Account should be taken of flood relief channel in Nuneaton town centre and implications for Anker's flow/its ecological impact. Flexibility of altering levels to Flood Relief Channel.	Agree, although this is a detailed design consideration, outwith the scope of this study.
Potential for navigable boat links/routes along the river.	Was there a precedent for this along the Anker?
Need for more sympathetic management of Anker near Sainsbury's to conserve/enhance ecology etc.	Agree
Balancing Lakes whether permanently or seasonally wet, would be a valuable feature of this zone in relation to new developments.	Agree
Linkages between Ensor's Pool SAC and Bermuda should consist of sensitive vegetation management, not changes to hydrology around this sensitive site. Similarly connections	Agree

Issue	*LUC response*
with Greenmoor Way.	
Camp Hill – topography and drainage routes – key area for flood attenuation.	Agree
Proposals for proactive management at Whittleford Park and Barpool Valley would need support from a Friend's Group.	Agree – cite in recommendations in relation to this project.
Weddington Meadows – potential location for flood management proposals.	Check location and potential link.
Forest Schools	The Forestry Commission doesn't operate such an initiative in this area, although this could be proposed as a potential future project.
A444 as potential habitat corridor – grassland links to Chilvers Valley.	Checked in refining GI network map.
Reference to mining heritage.	
Investigate lost arms of the canal e.g. Griff and Arbury. Griff Arm also formed a location within 'Mill on the Floss'.	Checked on site.
Could Nuneaton also have a park which references mining heritage.	Could tie into proposals for Discovery Park etc.
Issue of flooding at Marston Lane, Bedworth (near cemetery to north of town).	

GI FUNCTIONS

Issue	*LUC response*
Add productive landscapes e.g. in relation to Barpool – potential for short rotation coppice in wet woodland.	Agree
Outdoor classroom – wild/natural play etc.	Agree, although this can be a cross cutting one, subsumed within other functions such as access to nature.

Issue	*LUC response*
More emphasis on cultural heritage	Again a cross cutting theme – expressed through other functions concerned with place e.g. landscape setting and context, habitats.
Health	This is a benefit resulting from peoples experience/use/receipt of the GI functions, although agree that it relates to many of the environmental functions of GI.

DELIVERY – KEY POINTS

Issue	*LUC response*
Main mechanisms to make these wetland projects achievable are through tariffs set by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – potential for a 'habitat bank' type scheme to support Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) – follow Central Beds model.	Agree
Quarries – Aggregates Levy may be a key opportunity for delivery of future capital projects.	Agree, as the hard rock from the quarries (Mancetter/Judkins) is used for aggregate for highway construction.
Possible conflicts of interest in relation to access for recreation to canal and biodiversity value of associated wetland habitats; also potential mowing regimes in relation to the need to maintain flood defences.	Agree – is an issue for future detailed design principles and management prescriptions.
Natural England can and should play a key role in GI delivery either through the Development Management process, coordinating projects and funding bids or through advising a GI Delivery Panel to take strategy forward.	Agree make appropriate signposts and to potential future work to taker GI forward, as part of the Delivery Framework.
Make links to other GI Plans,	Agree

Issue	*LUC response*
West Midlands BAP.	
High level framework – set guidelines for masterplanning of future growth areas in relation to GI.	Agree, GI plan will set strategic framework for this.
Recommendations must encompass local character, place and local distinctiveness (ref to local materials /vernacular etc and the 'grain' of the landscape).	Agree, insofar as it relates to the GI Plan.
Could GI delivery be secured through a Regional/sub regional SPD?	A wider issue for NBBC to discuss with adjacent authorities.
Delivery Plan must be clear, accessible and visual. Concise, make signposts to other info sources. It should also be resourced/capable of being resourced, making links to key partners and what needs to be done next etc. The plan should think big/long term – sustainable approaches to long term management are key to successful GI delivery/realisation of design intentions.	Agree
Delivery Plan should also set a framework for meaningful future engagement with users of the GI network, as well as considering those will be using/implementing it (envt professionals such as Landscape Architects/Managers and Ecologists).	Agree
Consultation must occur as early as possible in the design process.	Agree – can form one of the recommendations in the GI Plan.
Build in links to other areas of the Council's work within the delivery plan, e.g. land owned/waste management, to maximise synergies.	The extent to which this can be covered in a strategic scale delivery plan are limited.
Embed in policy to deliver through spatial planning and through an appropriate monitoring framework. Monitoring could include HBA in	Agree – scope out appropriate mechanisms in developing recommendations.

Issue	*LUC response*
relation to biodiversity sites, HLC (?) and uptake of HLS schemes, also NI197 in relation to Biodiversity.	

4. PINK * GROUP (ZONE 4: URBAN GREENING)

ZONES AND PROJECTS – KEY POINTS

Issue	*LUC response*
Retrospective improvement would be harder / far more costly than any new opportunities that arose from redevelopment - e.g. street trees conflicts with markets / services underground / cctv.	To be resolved at the detailed design stage.
What seem like streets with lots of room in them for new street trees etc are much more crowded on wednesday and saturday with the market.	To be resolved through detailed design and future feasibility studies etc.
Things shouldn't be done just because a capital sum was available if the revenue costs to maintain / repair / service weren't going to be available.	Agree.
Street trees - feeling that should only do if can afford large trees - as small ones get vandalised.	Detailed design consideration.
Site specific detailed development briefs needed for town centre sites as well as broader policies.	A matter for NBBC.
There is maybe a missing project greening up other small urban areas / pockets - not just town centres alone?	The principles embodied in the GI Plan can apply to this, although more small scale, local considerations are outwith the scope of the project.
Should be recreational / ecological corridor running west to east through centre of development to link Weddington Walk to habitat / recreational route on stream course to east - more important than hedgerow pattern.	Agree, although would question whether this is more important than landscape structure. Landscape is multi functional and can form part of these corridors.

Issue	*LUC response*
Should be tree belt between development and A5 for noise / visual screening purposes.	Agree.
Should be significant buffer between Weddington Walk and any housing / development.	Agree.
Views should be retained from various points within the development toward Mt Jud as main local landmark.	Agree, although this is more of a detailed design principle.
Cycling - finishing existing routes - e.g. Weddington Road route heads toward town centre but then dangerous for last short stretch to get into town centre - cycling group.	Agree in principle, although this is a detailed consideration.
Use remaining old railways as routes / ecological corridors - cycling group.	Agree.
Finish canal NCN route - cycling group.	Agree.
Remove motorbike barriers on canal and elsewhere as obstacles to cycling - cycling group.	Agree in principle, although this is a detailed consideration.
Accommodate motorbikes somewhere so didn't abuse other routes / sites - cycling group.	Agree in principle, although this is a detailed/wider zoning consideration.
Explore use of County Sports partnership funding for various green infrastructure projects.	Make signpost if appropriate.
Explore use of 'Building Schools for the future' funding for various green infrastructure projects.	Make signpost if appropriate.

5. BLUE GROUP (ZONE 5: ACCESS LINKS/CORRIDORS)

ZONES AND PROJECTS – KEY POINTS

Issue	*LUC response*
Lots of good cycleways already, but connectivity could be improved e.g. at Galley Common.	Added increased local links.
Improve the quality and maintenance of what already exists. Maintenance is key – use of section 106 contributions.	Agree. Many of the link proposals within the Plan are about enhanced connectivity where disjointed or varying management to offer enhanced environmental functions.
Poor design of access routes an issue and also (perceived?) problems in relation to motorcycles. Design principles are very important for routes – consistent design standards across the Borough.	Agree – need for locally specific solutions (place-making).
Get info in the first place – signage, shared info available to everyone.	Agree. GI Strategy sets the framework, promotional/interpretative projects can be used to deliver GI objectives.
Any new development, especially schools, need to have walking and cycling routes built in.	Agree
Anker Valley is a key opportunity for wetland restoration and habitat re creation	Agree
Create footpath links from Bedworth and across the A5 to Hinkley.	Similar long distance route incorporated within the plan.
Enhance footpath links from Judkin's parkland to canal and beyond.	Checked
Proposed marina at Midland Quarry.	Checked
Additional green link across the M6.	Are more needed?
The Wharf (near Anker pub) on the Coventry Canal – opportunity to improve access; new bridge already being developed.	Checked on map.

Issue	*LUC response*
Griff Inn Bridge already exists – utilise this for GI (big opportunity).	Checked
A5 habitat corridor as part of landscape edge enhancement here.	Agree, incorporated.

GI FUNCTIONS

Issue	*LUC response*
Flood risk alleviation	Agree. This is covered in the floodrisk management function.

DELIVERY – KEY POINTS

Issue	*LUC response*
Increase communication between different interest groups; also understanding of different group's issues (e.g. health/transport); increased cross working.	Agree
Joined up funding bids streams to reflect different issues/groups also across Boroughs – regional.	Agree this should occur where appropriate. Delivery Framework will signpost to appropriate links.
Embed GI in planning policy – this way of thinking will have to become the norm.	Agree
Need a political champion for GI – link to councillors as more strategic projects need political backing.	Agree – signpost to this as the next stage/potential future work.
Better communication with public – this is a good news story.	

6. NEXT STEPS

6.1. The next steps for the Green Infrastructure Plan will be to review the findings of the workshop. In conjunction with further site work, these will be considered in finalising the GI network. A Delivery Plan will be developed to identify next steps in planning green infrastructure within the Borough. This will be the main area of discussion at a smaller, focussed meeting of key stakeholders likely to be associated with delivery, in August.

Workshop 3 – record of findings

NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
Workshop Record (Meeting 3)

Prepared for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
by
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October 2009

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This note summarises the findings of the stakeholder meeting which was held at the Museum, Riversley Park, Nuneaton, on 29th September 2009, in connection with the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Green Infrastructure Plan. LUC's responses to the findings are also identified.

1.2. The purpose of the meeting was for key stakeholders to comment on the GI Delivery and Monitoring Framework, and to get buy in for future GI implementation and ongoing management, as well as to inform NBBC's position in relation to future delivery.

1.3. Participants responded to the following questions:

- Involvement of organisations in projects, and potential for involvement of other organisations;
- Project prioritisation;
- Monitoring;
- Funding streams;
- Formalisation of a GI Panel tasked with implementation.

2. DISCUSSION POINTS AND RESPONSES

1. INVOLVEMENT OF ORGANISATIONS

Issue	LUC response
EH involvement possibly advantageous.	Agree
Opportunity for Historic Envt. Column function.	This is too late to be incorporated. More general reference will be made to historic envt in relation to landscape setting and context, and when introducing the functions.
Geology - link to projects in Zone 2 (link back to Ridge Project); also rail cuttings (e.g. bare faced environment).	Agree – make general reference to geological value.
Make greater links within the list.	Can incorporate specifics mentioned above.
Forest of Arden: mention FC (EWGS).	Agree.
BWB (canal projects).	Agree.
Quarry opportunities – Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (NE).	Agree – already referenced.

2. PROJECT PRIORITISATION

Issue	LUC response
Canal towpath (2c). This project is one of the missing locations on the NCN therefore higher priority.	LUC to check
Town centre link ("chicken and egg" situation).	
Relationship to housing as part of the next stage in the process and this may influence priorities.	Agree – part of the wider process.
2a possible strategic investment site – possible conflict of interest? No as project may be investment lever and can still influence the process.	Part of the wider process.
Minerals Local Plan.	Account has already been taken of this insofar as information is available.
To what extent have existing planning permissions been checked? E.g. Griff Quarry, Midland Quarry.	Study establishes strategic framework in which other proposals can fit therefore not necessarily a conflict. We are aware of the scheme for Midland Quarry.
How will GI be reciprocated in relation to development. To bring GI forward at same time as other infrastructure and development with educational / conservational message.	This is part of a later stage e.g. options for enabling developments linked to projects.
Timescale – informing Core Strategy for March consultation.	-
Zone 5 Street trees – is priority correct? (as cost may be too high).	LUC to check, although prioritisation is about much more than cost and also needs to consider long term benefit e.g. in terms of climate change adaptation potential. Appreciate that large grade (semi mature) trees likely to be needed in the town centre, which have a significant cost implication.
4b. Nuneaton North. Priority is high if linked to development process, otherwise still medium in the absence of development, to address open space deficiency. Situation is the same in relation to Bulkington parkland project.	Agree.
"Gain a lot by putting in a bit", e.g. can	This is likely to be work for a future GI

Issue	LUC response
some of the priorities be elevated with a little more work on the part of the partners.	delivery panel.
Overlay GIS map on land available/development options.	Next stage – for NBBC.
NBBC to set out what is required or developed.	Later stage – for NBBC.
Ensure that GI is used in relation to HLS targeting areas. Landowners to know if in HLS targeting areas (NE about to start on HLS planning in Autumn + feed into NBBC plan).	Task for NE in future.
Greenway link between Bedworth town centre and miners Welfare Park. – Should rank with 5C (mineral rail route), in terms of priority, as project and associated functions and benefits are similar.	Agree in principle – LUC to check.

3. FUNDING STREAMS

Issue	LUC response
EH Funding streams (LEADER)? Is this for more rural areas?	LUC to check.
EMDA and links to other RDAs. GI & Infrastructure plan can be renewed & updated on a more regular basis. Scope for co ordinated funding bid with other adjacent authorities/regions.	Agree. For NBBC to pursue in future.
SUSTRANS + coordinating body for other funding sources.	SUSTRANS is already referenced in the plan.
ERDF (SUDS) + other public realm projects (AWM)	Already referenced in the plan.
NE: Potential involvement in relation to Natural Assets, e.g. in relation to wetland parklands etc identified in Zone 3.	Agree
Wetland vision (EA) e.g. in relation to wetland parklands etc identified in Zone 3.	Agree
Smaller projects – may be opportunities for volunteering and associated match funding (also to deliver signage and interpretation, tie in with LAA etc).	Agree – can make general reference to this possibility.
Cross boundary partners e.g. coordinate bids / match funding.	Agree – for NBBC to investigate at a later stage in the process.
Kerseley Eco Suburb and associated Country Park would dovetail well with project 3f.	Will make reference.
Links to PCT on smaller projects (walking and cycling focus) → possible N16 + somewhere secure to leave cycles (consideration of revenue etc).	Agree – can add reference.
Coventry and Warwick Groundwork funding opportunities (Katy Martin).	Earlier project discussions have suggested little involvement from Groundwork, although they can be identified as a potential partner in relation to community and urban regeneration projects, in order that NBBC can follow up later.
ASLF	Already referenced in the plan.

Issue	LUC response
Collaborative bids with adjacent authorities.	Agree – for NBBC to follow up in future.
Corporate sponsorship (poss. finding some in relation to corporate responsibility).	-

4. MONITORING

Issue	LUC response
HBA work – link to ongoing monitoring; also LBAP.	
At the moment, no national indicator for historic environment. Something to consider in future, even if NBBC develop local indicator.	For NBBC to consider in future.
Sport England "Active Places" survey – reviewed every 3 years. Can also be used in relation to monitoring mechanisms.	Signpost to be made in report if appropriate.
BWB. Canal works – GIS Mapping to measure increased usage.	
Opportunity to involve local community + informal monitoring (targeted sites and workshops). E.g. Local Heritage Forum (NBBC + links with North Warks).	NBBC to investigate in future.
Possibility to set local performance indicators, as could otherwise miss out if not covered by national "tick box", and to capture more intangible or 'soft' targets.	NBBC to investigate in future.
NBBC Annual Monitoring Report. Considers not only national but also local indicators.	
Woodland corridors – involve HA / Network Rail 'Cross Link to these objectives + link to info on – plan.	Not identified as a specific project. Rather as important LBAP habitat, although NBBC should be aware of such links for future reference.
Arbury – negotiations.	Agree. Arbury have been identified as a potential partner for several projects.

Issue	LUC response
How can landscape be monitored?	In theory through Landscape Character Assessment and supporting strategies, although it is recognised that the existing Warwickshire LCA is quite old. LCA can also be used to monitor historic environment to some extent.

5. FORMALISING A GI PANEL

Issue	LUC response
GI Delivery panel should be of 2 parts – strategic overview, plus a group of 'do ers' on the ground – a more 'practical' delivery focussed sub group. E.g. not just a 'talking shop' – make things happen, and also play a monitoring role.	Agree in principle.
Make use of LSP's + SCS (Any existing forums to ensure efficiency and that work is not duplicated).	Agree
Practical input – e.g. when planning applics come in, comment on to ensure that strategic goals are met. Question of scale.	Agree – this could be one of the key roles of a GI Delivery Panel.
Checklist process to raise awareness of DC officers.	Agree – can identify this as a recommendation to take forward in future.
Educational role: v. simple checklist for applicants and at pre app. stage, especially for larger schemes.	Agree - can identify this as a recommendation to take forward in future.
Links to Eco Advice in relation to law.	Can identify this in roles and responsibilities for future GI panel.
GI SPD (possibly sub regional).	For NBBC to consider with other adjoining authorities.
How will it be resourced? Can people do it themselves, or will they need to appoint a dedicated member? Panel needs representation from Forward Planning side of the Council (as part of their annual monitoring duties), to provide this intelligence.	Is likely to be full time responsibility in future. Consider allowing for a nominated GI projects manager, within funding bids (e.g. make an allowance for such expenditure within a bid).
Should be LPA responsible. to deliver G1. Panel & advisory role etc.	Agree
Also need member 'buy in'. Needs a G1 champion, perhaps in the form, of one of the existing portfolio holders, subject to time and availability.	Agree. NBBC to follow up.
Possible ongoing role for an envt. partnership? As part of the more subregional scale framework, no one at the LPA will have the required	

Issue	LUC response
experience.	
GI plan to summarise next steps/further work needed and options for NBBC to consider.	Agree. Draft has started to do this, will expand.
Local Cycle Group Action Plan, if relevant components can get written into Action plan.	
Perhaps 6 monthly feedbacks. As it all feeds into Core Strategy etc.	NBBC to advise group in future.
Police perspective (motorcyclists). Must consider issues assoc. with this. Management presence neded (cost implication).	Agree, have identified management issues. Much of the problem with surveillance and perception will also be about good design (especially in relation to development led projects). Possible future work for NBBC to consider commissioning includes design coding or GI design principles/a design guide.
Media/communication: is G1 really 'accessible' to the public? Perhaps groundswell of public / political support. Consider 'branding' of GI network e.g. through a signage strategy.	We have made reference to a signage strategy as potential future work.
Could the map be clearer? Better colours. Perhaps show 'deconstructed' layers and themes showing how built up. Clearly identify PROPOSED elements as such on key.	We do not propose to recolour the map at this stage. We can show 'deconstructed layers' quite easily in GIS and can look at the key's wording to ensure it is clear.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1. The comments made by stakeholders will be taken into account in finalising the GI Plan. There will shortly be opportunity for further consultation on the whole GI Plan (Managed by NBBC), when it is uploaded to NBBC's website in due course. NBBC will advise stakeholders as soon as this is available.

Appendix 6: Glossary of terms

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Ancient woodland	Woods that are believed to have been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD.
ANGSt	Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards – a four level spatial typology used by Natural England.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan. Countywide plans identifying priority habitats and targets for enhancement/habitat creation.
Blue infrastructure	This term is sometimes used to describe riverine and coastal environments with a green infrastructure network.
Characteristic	A distinctive element of the landscape that contributes to landscape character for instance a particular hedgerow pattern or sense of tranquillity.
Climate change adaptation	The ability of a place to adapt to both extreme weather events and long term changes to climate patterns.
Coppice	A traditional form of woodland management where trees are cut regularly on a cycle to promote growth from their bases.
Ecological Network	Identification of key wildlife corridors and opportunities for connectivity/strategic links in implementing/delivering BAP targets, and to assist in reversing habitat fragmentation.
Ecosystem services	Resources and processes provided by natural ecosystems, to the benefit of communities.
European Landscape Convention (ELC)	This seeks to protect landscapes in law, with consideration given to landscape from the earliest stages in the planning process. The UK became a signatory to the Convention in February 2006 (ratified in November 2006).
Functional Floodplain	Floodplain that can fulfil a wide range of green infrastructure objectives, including passive/informal recreation, greenspace and parkland, in addition to flood storage and flood risk management.

Term	Definition
Genius loci	The essential character of a location or the 'spirit of the place', a term defined by the 18th Century English poet Alexander Pope.
GI	Commonly used acronym for Green Infrastructure.
Green Flag Award	The national standard or 'benchmark' for parks and greenspaces within England and Wales.
'Greenprint'	A landscape and environment led approach to spatial planning, where such assets are considered from the first, to guide growth and as part of advance mitigation for such change.
Greenspace strategies	These evaluate publicly accessible open space provision within these typologies at the local authority scale, noting issues in relation to condition, quality and access, often to inform a strategy and action plan that sets out future management and regeneration policies.
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation. Identification of landscape change and evolution through time depth analysis.
Landscape character	The distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape and how these are perceived. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement.
Landscape character areas	Single unique areas that are the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type.
Landscape character types	Distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historic land use and settlement pattern.
LNR	Local Nature Reserves.
Local Area Agreement (LAA)	These set out the priorities for a local area agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic Partnership).

Term	Definition
Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	Multi-agency, non-statutory partnerships, which match local authority boundaries. They bring together different components of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, allowing different initiatives and services to support one another with the aim of more effective joint working.
LSOAs	Local Super Output Areas – a geographic unit for the collection and publication of small area statistical data, at the local authority scale. The Indices of Deprivation use such units.
Multifunctionality	The ability to provide multiple or 'cross cutting' functions.
Natura 2000 sites	Sites of pan European nature conservation importance, e.g. Special Protection Areas (SPA – birds) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC- habitats)
NNR	National Nature Reserves.
Peri urban	The transition between rural and urban landscapes, or the interface between landscape and townscape. Sometimes also referred to as the urban-rural fringe, and by Nan Fairbrother (in **New Lives, New Landscapes**) as the 'green urban' environment.
Place-making	Recognition of the specific qualities and local distinctiveness of a place, and ensuring that plans, policies and proposals respond accordingly.
RAMSAR Sites	Wetlands of international importance.
SAMs/SMRs	Scheduled (Ancient) Monuments or sites/features on the Sites and Monuments Record.
SSSIs	Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Designated under the Wildlife and Conservation Act 1981, as amended, for their outstanding interest in respect of flora, fauna, geology and or limnology.
Sustainable Drainage Systems or SuDS	Formerly called Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. An approach to managing rainfall and run off in developments, with a view to replicating natural drainage. SuDS also aim to control pollution, re charge ground water, control flooding, and often provide landscape and environmental enhancement.